J. G. Gill.

J. G Gill.

from one traveller
to another ...
Good Luck!

4/29/83

Love,
Charlie

THE

POETICAL WORKS

OF

LORD BYRON

NEW YORK
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HOURS OF IDLENESS.

WRITTEN FROM 1802 TO 1807.

ON THE DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY,*

COUSIN TO THE AUTHOR, AND VERY DEAR TO HIM.†

Hush'd are the winds, and still the evening gloom,
Not e'en a zephyr wanders through the grove,
Whilst I return to view my Margaret's tomb,
And scatter flowers on the dust I love.

Within this narrow cell reclines her clay,
That clay where once such animation beam'd;
The King of Terrors seized her as his prey:
Not worth, nor beauty, have her life redeem'd.

Oh! could that King of Terrors pity feel,
Or Heaven reverse the dread decrees of fate!
Not here the mourner would his grief reveal,
Not here the muse her virtues would relate.

But wherefore weep? Her matchless spirit soars
Beyond where splendid shines the orb of day;
And weeping angels lead her to those bowers
Where endless pleasures virtue's deeds repay.

And shall presumptuous mortals Heaven arraign,
And, madly, godlike Providence accuse?
Ah! no, far fly from me attempts so vain;
I'll ne'er submission to my God refuse.

Yet is remembrance of those virtues dear,
Yet fresh the memory of that beauteous face;
Still they call forth my warm affection's tear,
Still in my heart retain their wonted place.

TO E—.

Let Folly smile, to view the names
Of thee and me in friendship twined;
Yet Virtue will have greater claims
To love, than rank with vice combined.

And though unequal is thy fate,
Since title deck'd my higher birth,
Yet envy not this gaudy state;
Thine is the pride of modest worth.

Our souls at least congenial meet,
Nor can thy lot my rank disgrace;
Our intercourse is not less sweet,
Since worth of rank supplies the place.

TO D—.

In thee I fondly hoped to clasp
A friend, whom death alone could sever;
Till Envy, with malignant grasp,
Detach'd thee from my breast forever.

True, she has forced thee from my breast,
Yet in my heart thou keep'st thy seat;
There, there thine image still must rest,
Until that heart shall cease to beat.

And when the grave restores her dead,
When life again to dust is given,
On thy dear breast I'll lay my head—
Without thee, where would be my heaven?

EPITAPH ON A FRIEND.

Ἀστὴρ πριν μεν ἐλαμπες ἐνι ζωοῖσιν ἐῳος.
LAERTIUS.

Oh, Friend! forever loved, forever dear!
What fruitless tears have bathed thy honor'd bier!
What sighs re-echo'd to thy parting breath,
Whilst thou wast struggling in the pangs of death!
Could tears retard the tyrant in his course;
Could sighs avert his dart's relentless force;
Could youth and virtue claim a short delay,
Or beauty charm the spectre from his prey;
Thou still hadst lived to bless my aching sight,
Thy comrade's honor and thy friend's delight.
If yet thy gentle spirit hover nigh
The spot where now thy mouldering ashes lie,
Here wilt thou read, recorded on my heart,
A grief too deep to trust the sculptor's art.
No marble marks thy couch of lowly sleep,
But living statues there are seen to weep;
Affliction's semblance bends not o'er thy tomb,

* Admiral Parker's daughter.
† The author claims the indulgence of the reader more for this piece than perhaps any other in the collection; but as it was written at an earlier period than the rest (being composed at the age of fourteen), and his first essay, he preferred submitting it to the indulgence of his friends in its present state, to making either addition or alteration.

Affliction's self deplores thy youthful doom.
What though thy sire lament his failing line,
A father's sorrows cannot equal mine! [cheer,
Though none, like thee, his dying hour will
Yet other offspring soothe his anguish here:
But who with me shall hold thy former place?
Thine image, what new friendship can efface?
Ah! none!—a father's tears will cease to flow,
Time will assuage an infant brother's woe;
To all, save one, is consolation known,
While solitary friendship sighs alone.

A FRAGMENT.

When, to their airy hall, my fathers' voice
Shall call my spirit, joyful in their choice:
When, poised upon the gale, my form shall
ride, [side:
Or, dark in mist, descend the mountain's
Oh! may my shade behold no sculptured urns,
To mark the spot where earth to earth re-
turns! [stone;
No lengthen'd scroll, no praise-encumber'd
My epitaph shall be my name alone:
If *that* with honor fail to crown my clay,
Oh! may no other fame my deeds repay!
That, only *that*, shall single out the spot;
By that remember'd, or with that forgot.

ON LEAVING NEWSTEAD ABBEY.

"Why dost thou build the hall, son of the winged days! Thou lookest from thy tower to-day; yet a few years, and the blast of the desert comes, it howls in the empty court."—Ossian.

Through thy battlements, Newstead, the
hollow winds whistle; [decay;
Thou, the hall of my fathers, art gone to
In thy once smiling garden, the hemlock and
thistle [in the way.
Have choked up the rose which late bloom'd

Of the mail-cover'd Barons, who proudly to
battle [tine's plain,
Led their vassals from Europe to Pales-
The escutcheon and shield, which with every
blast rattle,
Are the only sad vestiges now that remain.

No more doth old Robert, with heart-string-
ing numbers, [rell'd wreath;
Raise a flame in the breast for the war-lau-
Near Askalon's towers John of Horistan slum-
bers, [death.
Unnerved is the hand of his minstrel by

Paul and Hubert, too, sleep in the valley of
Cressy; [fell;
For the safety of Edward and England they
My fathers! the tears of your country redress
ye; [nals can tell.
How you fought, how you died, still her an-

On Marston, with Rupert, 'gainst traitors
contending,*
Four brothers enrich'd with their blood the
bleak field; [fending,
For the rights of a monarch their country de-
Till death their attachment to royalty seal'd.

Shades of heroes, farewell; your descendant,
departing [adieu!
From the seat of his ancestors, bids you
Abroad or at home, your remembrance im-
parting [you.
New courage, he'll think upon glory and

Though a tear dim his eye at this sad separa-
tion,
'Tis nature, not fear, that excites his regret;
Far distant he goes with the same emulation,
The flame of his fathers he ne'er can forget.

That fame and that memory still will he
cherish, [renown;
He vows that he ne'er will disgrace your-
Like you will he live, or like you will he perish;
When decay'd, may he mingle his dust
with your own.

LINES

WRITTEN IN "LETTERS OF AN ITALIAN NUN AND AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN: BY J. J. ROUSSEAU: FOUNDED ON FACTS."

"Away, away, your flattering arts
May now betray some simpler hearts;
And you will smile at their believing,
And they shall weep at your deceiving."

ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING, ADDRESSED TO MISS ———

Dear, simple girl, those flattering arts
From which thou'dst guard frail female
hearts,
Exist but in imagination—
Mere phantoms of thine own creation:
For he who views that witching grace,
That perfect form, that lovely face,
With eyes admiring, oh! believe me,
He never wishes to deceive thee:
Once in thy polish'd mirror glance,
Thou'lt there descry that elegance
Which from our sex demands such praises,
But envy in the other raises:
Then he who tells thee of thy beauty,
Believe me, only does his duty;
Ah! fly not from the candid youth;
It is not flattery—'tis truth.

ADRIAN'S ADDRESS TO HIS SOUL WHEN DYING.*

Ah! gentle, fleeting, wav'ring sprite,
Friend and associate of this clay!
To what unknown region borne,
Wilt thou now wing thy distant flight?
No more with wonted humor gay,
But pallid, cheerless, and forlorn.

* Marston Moor, where the adherents of Charles I. were defeated.—Prince Rupert, son of the Elector Palatine, and nephew to Charles I. He afterwards commanded the fleet in the reign of Charles II.

* "Animula! vagula, blandula
Hospes comesque corporis,
Quæ nunc abibis in loca—
Pallidula, rigida, nudula
Nec, ut soles, dabis jocos!"

TRANSLATION FROM CATULLUS.

AD LESBIAM.

EQUAL to Jove that youth must be—
Greater than Jove he seems to me—
Who, free from Jealousy's alarms,
Securely views thy matchless charms.
That cheek, which ever dimpling glows,
That mouth, from whence such music flows,
To him alike are always known,
Reserved for him, and him alone.
Ah, Lesbia! though 'tis death to me,
I cannot choose but look on thee;
But at the sight my senses fly;
I needs must gaze, but, gazing, die:
Whilst trembling with a thousand fears,
Parch'd to the throat my tongue adheres,
My pulse beats quick, my breath heaves short,
My limbs deny their slight support,
Cold dews my pallid face o'erspread,
With deadly languor droops my head,
My ears with tingling echoes ring,
And life itself is on the wing;
My eyes refuse the cheering light,
Their orbs are veil'd in starless night:
Such pangs my nature sinks beneath,
And feels a temporary death.

TRANSLATION OF THE EPITAPH ON VIRGIL AND TIBULLUS.

BY DOMITIUS MARSUS.

HE who sublime in epic numbers roll'd,
And he who struck the softer lyre of love,
By Death's unequal hand alike controll'd,
Fit comrades in Elysian regions move!

IMITATION OF TIBULLUS.

"Sulpicia ad Cerinthum."—LIB. iv.

CRUEL Cerinthus! does the fell disease
Which racks my breast your fickle bosom please?
Alas! I wish'd but to o'ercome the pain,
That I might live for love and you again;
But now I scarcely shall bewail my fate;
By death alone I can avoid your hate.

TRANSLATION FROM CATULLUS.

[Lugete, Veneres, Cupidinesque, etc.]

YE Cupids, droop each little head,
Nor let your wings with joy be spread,
My Lesbia's favorite bird is dead,
Whom dearer than her eyes she loved:
For he was gentle, and so true,
Obedient to her call he flew,
No fear, no wild alarm he knew,
But lightly o'er her bosom moved!

And, softly fluttering here and there,
He never sought to cleave the air,
But chirrup'd oft, and, free from care,
Tuned to her ear his grateful strain.
Now, having pass'd the gloomy bourne
From whence he never can return,
His death and Lesbia's grief I mourn,
Who sighs, alas! but sighs in vain.

Oh! curst be thou, devouring grave!
Whose jaws eternal victims crave,
From whom no earthly power can save,
For thou hast ta'en the bird away:
From thee my Lesbia's eyes o'erflow,
Her swollen cheeks with weeping glow;
Thou art the cause of all her woe,
Receptacle of life's decay.

IMITATED FROM CATULLUS.

TO ELLEN.

OH! might I kiss those eyes of fire,
A million scarce would quench desire;
Still would I steep my lips in bliss,
And dwell an age on every kiss:
Nor then my soul should sated be;
Still would I kiss and cling to thee:
Nought should my kiss from thine dissever;
Still would we kiss, and kiss forever;
E'en though the numbers did exceed
The yellow harvest's countless seed.
To part would be a vain endeavor;
Could I desist?—ah! never—never!

TRANSLATION FROM HORACE.

[Justum et tenacem propositi virum, etc.]

THE man of firm and noble soul
No factious clamors can control;
No threat'ning tyrant's darkling brow
Can swerve him from his just intent:
Gales the warring waves which plough,
By Auster on the billows spent,
To curb the Adriatic main,
Would awe his fix'd, determined mind in vain.

Ay, and the red right arm of Jove,
Hurtling his lightnings from above,
With all his terrors there unfurl'd,
He would unmoved, unawed behold.
The flames of an expiring world,
Again in crashing chaos roll'd,
In vast promiscuous ruin hurl'd,
Might light his glorious funeral pile;
Still dauntless 'midst the wreck of earth he'd smile.

FROM ANACREON.

[Οἶλω λεγεῖν Ατρείδας, κ. τ. λ.]

I WISH to tune my quivering lyre
To deeds of fame and notes of fire;
To echo, from its rising swell,
How heroes fought and nations fell,
When Atreus' sons advanced to war,
Or Tyrian Cadmus roved afar;
But still, to martial strains unknown,
My lyre recurs to love alone:
Fired with the hope of future fame,
I seek some nobler hero's name:
The dying chords are strung anew,
To war, to war, my harp is due;
With glowing strings, the epic strain
To Jove's great son I raise again;
Alcides and his glorious deeds,
Beneath whose arm the Hydra bleeds.
All, all in vain; my wayward lyre
Wakes silver notes of soft desire.

Adieu, ye chiefs renown'd in arms!
Adieu the clang of war's alarms!
To other deeds my soul is strung,
And sweeter notes shall now be sung;
My harp shall all its powers reveal,
To tell the tale my heart must feel:
Love, Love alone my lyre shall claim,
In songs of bliss and sighs of flame.

FROM ANACREON.

[*Μεσονυκτίαις ποθ' ὥραις, κ. τ. λ.*]

'Twas now the hour when Night had driven
Her car half round yon sable heaven;
Boötes, only, seem'd to roll
His arctic charge around the pole:
While mortals, lost in gentle sleep,
Forgot to smile, or ceased to weep:
At this lone hour, the Paphian boy,
Descending from the realms of joy,
Quick to my gate directs his course,
And knocks with all his little force.
My visions fled, alarm'd I rose—
"What stranger breaks my blest repose?"
"Alas!" replies the wily child,
In faltering accents sweetly mild,
"A hapless infant here I roam,
Far from my dear maternal home.
Oh! shield me from the wintry blast!
The nightly storm is pouring fast.
No prowling robber lingers here.
A wandering baby who can fear?"
I heard his seeming artless tale,
I heard his sighs upon the gale:
My breast was never pity's foe,
But felt for all the baby's woe.
I drew the bar, and by the light,
Young Love, the infant, met my sight;
His bow across his shoulders flung,
And thence his fatal quiver hung
(Ah! little did I think the dart
Would rankle soon within my heart).
With care I tend my weary guest,
His little fingers chill my breast:
His glossy curls, his azure wing,
Which droop with nightly showers, I wring;
His shivering limbs the embers warm;
And now, reviving from the storm,
Scarce had he felt his wonted glow,
Than swift he seized his slender bow;
"I fain would know, my gentle host,"
He cried, "if this its strength has lost;
I fear, relax'd with midnight dews,
The strings their former aid refuse."
With poison tipt, his arrow flies,
Deep in my tortured heart it lies;
Then loud the joyous urchin laugh'd:
"My bow can still impel the shaft:
'Tis firmly fix'd, thy sighs reveal it;
Say, courteous host, canst thou not feel it?"

FROM THE PROMETHEUS VINCTUS OF ÆSCHYLUS.

[*Μηδαμ ὁ πάντα νέμων, κ. τ. λ.*]

Great Jove, to whose almighty throne
Both gods and mortals homage pay,
Ne'er may my soul thy powers disown,
Thy dread behests ne'er disobey.
Oft shall the sacred victim fall
In sea-girt Ocean's mossy hall;
My voice shall raise no impious strain,
'Gainst him who rules the sky and azure main.

How different now thy joyless fate,
Since first Hesione thy bride,
When placed aloft in god-like state,
The blushing beauty by thy side,
Thou sat'st, while reverend Ocean smiled,
And mirthful strains the hours beguiled,
The Nymphs and Tritons danced around.
Nor yet thy doom was fix'd, nor Jove relentless frown'd.

TO EMMA.

Since now the hour is come at last,
When you must quit your anxious lover;
Since now our dream of bliss is past,
One pang, my girl, and all is over.

Alas! that pang will be severe,
Which bids us part to meet no more;
Which tears me far from one so dear,
Departing for a distant shore.

Well! we have pass'd some happy hours,
And joy will mingle with our tears,
When thinking on these ancient towers,
The shelter of our infant years;

Where, from this Gothic casement's height,
We view'd the lake, the park, the dell;
And still, though tears obstruct our sight,
We lingering look a last farewell,

O'er fields through which we used to run,
And spend the hours in childish play;
O'er shades where, when our race was done,
Reposing on my breast you lay;

Whilst I, admiring, too remiss,
Forgot to scare the hovering flies,
Yet envied every fly the kiss
It dared to give your slumbering eyes.

See still the little painted bark,
In which I row'd you o'er the lake;
See there, high waving o'er the park,
The elm I clamber'd for your sake.

These times are past—our joys are gone,
You leave me, leave this happy vale;
These scenes I must retrace alone:
Without thee, what would they avail?

Who can conceive, who has not proved,
The anguish of a last embrace,
When, torn from all you fondly loved
You bid a long adieu to peace?

This is the deepest of our woes,
For this these tears our cheeks bedew:
This is of love the final close,
O God! the fondest, last adieu!

TO M. S. G.

WHENE'ER I view those lips of thine,
Their hue invites my fervent kiss;
Yet I forego that bliss divine,
Alas! it were unhallow'd bliss.

Whene'er I dream of that pure breast,
How could I dwell upon its snows!
Yet is the daring wish represt;
For that—would banish its repose.

A glance from thy soul-searching eye
Can raise with hope, depress with fear;
Yet I conceal my love—and why?
I would not force a painful tear.

I ne'er have told my love, yet thou
Hast seen my ardent flame too well;
And shall I plead my passion now,
To make thy bosom's heaven a hell?

No! for thou never canst be mine,
United by the priest's decree:
By any ties but those divine,
Mine, my beloved, thou ne'er shalt be.

Then let the secret fire consume,
Let it consume, thou shalt not know;
With joy I court a certain doom,
Rather than spread its guilty glow.

I will not ease my tortured heart
By driving dove-eyed peace from thine;
Rather than such a sting impart,
Each thought presumptuous I resign.

Yes! yield those lips, for which I'd brave
More than I here shall dare to tell;
Thy innocence and mine to save—
I bid thee now a last farewell.

Yes! yield that breast, to seek despair,
And hope no more thy soft embrace;
Which to obtain, my soul would dare
All, all reproach—but thy disgrace.

At least from guilt shalt thou be free,
No matron shall thy shame reprove;
Though cureless pangs may prey on me,
No martyr shalt thou be to love.

TO CAROLINE.

THINK'ST thou I saw thy beauteous eyes,
Suffused in tears, implore to stay,
And heard unmoved thy plenteous sighs,
Which said far more than words can say?

Though keen the grief thy tears exprest,
When love and hope lay both o'erthrown;
Yet still, my girl, this bleeding breast
Throbb'd with deep sorrow as thine own.

But when our cheeks with anguish glow'd,
When thy sweet lips were join'd to mine,
The tears that from my eyelids flow'd
Were lost in those which fell from thine.

Thou couldst not feel my burning cheek,
Thy gushing tears had quench'd its flame;
And as thy tongue essay'd to speak,
In sighs alone it breathed my name.

And yet, my girl, we weep in vain,
In vain our fate in sighs deplore;
Remembrance only can remain—
But that will make us weep the more.

Again, thou best beloved, adieu!
Ah! if thou canst, o'ercome regret;
Nor let thy mind past joys review—
Our only hope is to forget!

TO CAROLINE.

WHEN I hear you express an affection so warm,
Ne'er think, my beloved, that I do not believe; [arm,
For your lip would the soul of suspicion dis-
And your eye beams a ray which can never deceive.

Yet still this fond bosom regrets, while adoring, [sere;
That love, like the leaf, must fall into the
That age will come on, when remembrance, deploring, [a tear;
Contemplates the scenes of her youth with

That the time must arrive, when, no longer retaining [to the breeze,
Their auburn, those locks must wave thin
When a few silver hairs of those tresses remaining,
Prove nature a prey to decay and disease.

'Tis this, my beloved, which spreads gloom o'er my features, [decree,
Though I ne'er shall presume to arraign the
Which God has proclaim'd as the fate of His creatures, [of me,
In the death which one day will deprive you

Mistake not, sweet skeptic, the cause of emotion, [vade;
No doubt can the mind of your lover in-
He worships each look with such faithful devotion, [suade.
A smile can enchant, or a tear can dis-

But as death, my beloved, soon or late shall o'ertake us, [sympathy glow,
And our breasts, which alive with such
Will sleep in the grave till the blast shall awake us, [laid low,—
When calling the dead, in earth's bosom

Oh! then let us drain, while we may, draughts of pleasure, [ingly flow:
Which from passion like ours may unceas-
Let us pass round the cup of love's bliss in full measure,
And quaff the contents as our nectar below.

TO CAROLINE.

OH! when shall the grave hide forever my sorrow?
Oh! when shall my soul wing her flight from this clay?

The present is hell, and the coming to-morrow [to-day.
But brings, with new torture, the curse of

From my eye flows no tear, from my lips flow no curses, [from bliss;
I blast not the fiends who have hurl'd me
For poor is the soul which bewailing rehearses
Its querulous grief, when in anguish like this.

Was my eye, 'stead of tears, with red fury flakes bright'ning,
Would my lips breathe a flame which no stream could assuage,
On our foes should my glance launch in vengeance its lightning, [its rage.
With transport my tongue give a loose to

But now tears and curses, alike unavailing,
Would add to the souls of our tyrants delight: [wailing
Could they view us our sad separation be-
Their merciless hearts would rejoice at the sight.
Yet still, though we bend with a feign'd resignation, [cheer,
Life beams not for us with one ray that can
Love and hope upon earth bring no more consolation; [fear.
In the grave is our hope, for in life is our

Oh! when, my adored, in the tomb will they place me, [are fled?
Since in life, love and friendship forever
If again in the mansion of death I embrace thee, [dead.
Perhaps they will leave unmolested the

STANZAS TO A LADY.

WITH THE POEMS OF CAMOENS.

THIS votive pledge of fond esteem,
Perhaps, dear girl! for me thou'lt prize;
It sings of Love's enchanting dream,
A theme we never can despise.

Who blames it but the envious fool,
The old and disappointed maid;
Or pupil of the prudish school,
In single sorrow doom'd to fade?

Then read, dear girl! with feeling read,
For thou wilt ne'er be one of these;
To thee in vain I shall not plead
In pity for the poet's woes.

He was, in sooth, a genuine bard:
His was no vain, fictitious flame:
Like his, may love be thy reward,
But not thy hapless fate the same.

THE FIRST KISS OF LOVE.

Ἁ Βαρβίτος δε χορδαῖς·
Ἐρῶτα μούνον ἠχει.—ANACREON.

AWAY with your fictions of flimsy romance;
Those tissues of falsehood which folly has wove!
Give me the mild beam of the soul-breathing glance,
Or the rapture which dwells on the first kiss of love.

Ye rhymers, whose bosoms with fantasy glow,
Whose pastoral passions are made for the grove;
From what blest inspiration your sonnets would flow, [love!
Could you ever have tasted the first kiss of

If Apollo should e'er his assistance refuse,
Or the Nine be disposed from your service to rove,
Invoke them no more, bid adieu to the muse,
And try the effect of the first kiss of love!

I hate you, ye cold compositions of art!
Though prudes may condemn me, and bigots reprove, [heart,
I court the effusions that spring from the
Which throbs with delight to the first kiss of love.

Your shepherds, your flocks, those fantastical themes, [move:
Perhaps may amuse, yet they never can
Arcadia displays but a region of dreams:
What are visions like these to the first kiss of love?

Oh! cease to affirm that man, since his birth,
From Adam till now, has with wretchedness strove;
Some portion of Paradise still is on earth,
And Eden revives in the first kiss of love.

When age chills the blood, when our pleasures are past— [dove—
For years fleet away with the wings of the
The dearest remembrance will still be the last,
Our sweetest memorial the first kiss of love.

ON A CHANGE OF MASTERS AT A GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

WHERE are those honors, Ida! once your own,
When Probus filled your magisterial throne?
As ancient Rome, fast falling to disgrace,
Hail'd a barbarian in her Cæsar's place,
So you, degenerate, share as hard a fate,
And seat Pomposus where your Probus sate.
Of narrow brain, yet of a narrower soul,
Pomposus holds you in his harsh control;
Pomposus, by no social virtue sway'd,
With florid jargon, and with vain parade;
With noisy nonsense and new-fangled rules,
Such as were ne'er before enforced in schools,
Mistaking pedantry for learning's laws,
He governs, sanction'd but by self-applause;
With him the same dire fate attending Rome,
Ill-fated Ida! soon must stamp your doom;
Like her o'erthrown, forever lost to fame,
No trace of science left you, but the name.

TO THE DUKE OF DORSET.

DORSET! whose early steps with mine have
Exploring every path of Ida's glade; [stray'd,
Whom still affection taught me to defend,
And made me less a tyrant than a friend,
Though the harsh custom of our youthful band
Bade *thee* obey, and gave *me* to command;*
Thee, on whose head a few short years will shower
The gift of riches, and the pride of power;
E'en now a name illustrious is thine own,
Renown'd in rank, nor far beneath the throne.
Yet, Dorset, let not this seduce thy soul
To shun fair science, or evade control,
Though passive tutors, fearful to dispraise
The titled child, whose future breath may raise,
View ducal errors with indulgent eyes,
And wink at faults they tremble to chastise.
When youthful parasites, who bend the knee
To wealth, their golden idol, not to thee—
And even in simple boyhood's opening dawn
Some slaves are found to flatter and to fawn—
When these declare, "that pomp alone should wait
On one by birth predestined to be great;
That books were only meant for drudging fools,
That gallant spirits scorn the common rules";
Believe them not;—they point the path to shame,
And seek to blast the honors of thy name.
Turn to the few in Ida's early throng,
Whose souls disdain not to condemn the wrong;
Or if, amidst the comrades of thy youth,
None dare to raise the sterner voice of truth,
Ask thine own heart; 'twill bid thee, boy, forbear;
For *well* I know that virtue lingers there.

Yes! I have mark'd thee many a passing day,
But now new scenes invite me far away;
Yes! I have mark'd within that generous mind,
A soul, if well matured, to bless mankind.
Ah! though myself by nature haughty, wild,
Whom Indiscretion hail'd her favorite child;
Though every error stamps me for her own,
And dooms my fall, I fain would fall alone;
Though my proud heart no precept now can [tame,
I love the virtues which I cannot claim.

'Tis not enough, with other sons of power,
To gleam the lambent meteor of an hour;
To swell some peerage page in feeble pride,
With long-drawn names that grace no page beside;
Then share with titled crowds the common lot,
In life just gazed at, in the grave forgot:
While naught divides thee from the vulgar dead
Except the dull cold stone that hides thy head,
The mouldering 'scutcheon, or the herald's roll,
That well-emblazon'd but neglected scroll,
Where lords, unhonor'd, in the tomb may find
One spot, to leave a worthless name behind.
There sleep, unnoticed as the gloomy vaults
That veil their dust, their follies and their faults,
A race, with old armorial lists o'erspread,
In records destined never to be read.
Fain would I view thee, with prophetic eyes,
Exalted more among the good and wise,
A glorious and a long career pursue,
As first in rank, the first in talent too:
Spurn every vice, each little meanness shun;
Not Fortune's minion, but her noblest son.

Turn to the annals of a former day;
Bright are the deeds thine earlier sires display.
One, though a courtier, lived a man of worth,
And call'd, proud boast! the British drama forth.
Another view, not less renown'd for wit;
Alike for courts, and camps, or senates fit;
Bold in the field, and favor'd by the Nine;
In every splendid part ordain'd to shine:
Far, far distinguish'd from the glittering throng,
The pride of princes, and the boast of song.
Such were thy fathers; thus preserve their [name;
Not heir to titles only, but to fame.
The hour draws nigh, a few brief days will close,
To me, this little scene of joys and woes;
Each knell of Time now warns me to resign
Shades where Hope, Peace and Friendship all were mine:
Hope, that could vary like the rainbow's hue,
And gild their pinions as the moments flew;
Peace, that reflection never frown'd away,
By dreams of ill to cloud some future day;
Friendship, whose truth let childhood only tell;
Alas! they love not long, who love so well.
To these adieu! nor let me linger o'er
Scenes hail'd, as exiles hail their native shore,
Receding slowly through the dark-blue deep,
Beheld by eyes that mourn, yet cannot weep.
Dorset, farewell! I will not ask one part
Of sad remembrance in so young a heart;
The coming morrow from thy youthful mind
Will sweep my name, nor leave a trace behind.
And yet, perhaps, in some maturer year,
Since chance has thrown us in the self-same sphere,
Since the same senate, nay, the same debate,
May one day claim our suffrage for the state,
We hence may meet, and pass each other by,
With faint regard, or cold and distant eye.

For me, in future, neither friend nor foe,
A stranger to thyself, thy weal or woe,
With thee no more again I hope to trace
The recollection of our early race;

* "At every public school, the junior boys are completely subservient to the upper forms till they attain a seat in the higher classes. From this state of probation, very properly, no rank is exempt; but after a certain period, they command in turn those who succeed."

No more, as once, in social hours rejoice,
Or hear, unless in crowds, thy well-known voice:
Still, if the wishes of a heart untaught
To veil those feelings which perchance it ought,
If these—but let me cease the lengthen'd strain,—
Oh! if these wishes are not breathed in vain,
The guardian seraph who directs thy fate
Will leave thee glorious, as he found thee great.

FRAGMENT.

WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTER THE MARRIAGE OF MISS CHAWORTH.

Hills of Annesley! black and barren,
Where my thoughtless childhood stray'd,
How the northern tempests, warring,
Howl above thy tufted shade!

Now no more, the hours beguiling,
Former favorite haunts I see;
Now no more my Mary smiling
Makes ye seem a heaven to me.

GRANTA: A MEDLEY.

'Αργυρέαις λόγχαις μάχον καὶ πάντα Κρατήσαις.

Oh! could Le Sage's demon's gift*
Be realized at my desire,
This night my trembling form he'd lift
To place it on St. Mary's spire.

Then would, unroof'd, old Granta's halls
Pedantic inmates full display;
Fellows who dream on lawn or stalls,
The price of venal votes to pay.

Then would I view each rival wight,
Petty and Palmerston survey;
Who canvass there with all their might,
Against the next elective day.

Lo! candidates and voters lie
All lull'd in sleep, a goodly number:
A race renown'd for piety,
Whose conscience won't disturb their slumber.

Lord H——, indeed, may not demur;
Fellows are sage, reflecting men:
They know preferment can occur
But very seldom—now and then.

They know the Chancellor has got
Some pretty livings in disposal:
Each hopes that one may be his lot,
And therefore smiles on his proposal.

Now from the soporific scene
I'll turn mine eye, as night grows later,
To view, unheeded and unseen,
The studious sons of Alma Mater.

There, in apartments small and damp,
The candidate for college prizes
Sits poring by the midnight lamp;
Goes late to bed, yet early rises.

He surely well deserves to gain them,
With all the honors of his college,
Who, striving hardly to obtain them,
Thus seeks unprofitable knowledge:

Who sacrifices hours of rest
To scan precisely metres Attic,
Or agitates his anxious breast
In solving problems mathematic:

Who reads false quantities in Seale,*
Or puzzles o'er the deep triangle;
Deprived of many a wholesome meal;
In barbarous Latin doom'd to wrangle:†

Renouncing every pleasing page
From authors of historic use;
Preferring to the letter'd sage,
The square of the hypothenuse.‡

Still, harmless are these occupations,
That hurt none but the hapless student,
Compared with other recreations,
Which bring together the imprudent;

Whose daring revels shock the sight,
When vice and infamy combine,
When drunkenness and dice invite,
As every sense is steep'd in wine.

Not so the methodistic crew,
Who plans of reformation lay:
In humble attitude they sue,
And for the sins of others pray:

Forgetting that their pride of spirit,
Their exultation in their trial,
Detracts most largely from the merit
Of all their boasted self-denial.

'Tis morn:—from these I turn my sight.
What scene is this which meets the eye?
A numerous crowd, array'd in white,
Across the green in numbers fly.

Loud rings in air the chapel bell;
'Tis hush'd—what sounds are these I hear?
The organ's soft celestial swell
Rolls deeply on the list'ning ear.

To this is join'd the sacred song,
The royal minstrel's hallowed strain;
Though he who hears the music long
Will never wish to hear again.

Our choir would scarcely be excused,
Even as a band of raw beginners;
All mercy now must be refused
To such a set of croaking sinners.

* The Diable Boiteux of Le Sage, where Asmodeus, the demon, places Don Cleofas on an elevated situation, and unroofs the houses for inspection.

* Seale's publication on Greek Metres displays considerable talent and ingenuity, but, as might be expected in so difficult a work, is not remarkable for accuracy.

† The Latin of the schools is of the canine species, and is not very intelligible.

‡ The discovery of Pythagoras, that the square of the hypothenuse is equal to the squares of the other two sides of a right-angled triangle.

If David, when his toils were ended, [him,
Had heard these blockheads sing before
To us his psalms had ne'er descended—
In furious mood he would have tore 'em.

The luckless Israelites, when taken
By some inhuman tyrant's order,
Were ask'd to sing, by joy forsaken,
On Babylonian river's border.

Oh! had they sung in notes like these,
Inspired by stratagem or fear,
They might have set their hearts at ease,
The devil a soul had stayed to hear.

But if I scribble longer now,
The deuce a soul will stay to read:
My pen is blunt, my ink is low,
'Tis almost time to stop, indeed.

Therefore, farewell, old Granta's spires!
No more, like Cleofas, I fly;
No more thy theme my muse inspires;
The reader's tired, and so am I.

ON A DISTANT VIEW OF THE VILLAGE AND SCHOOL OF HARROW-ON-THE-HILL.

"Oh! mihi præteritos referat si Jupiter annos."
—VIRGIL.

Ye scenes of my childhood, whose loved recollection [past;
Embitters the present, compared with the
Where science first dawn'd on the powers of reflection, [to last;
And friendships were form'd, too romantic

Where fancy yet joys to trace the resemblance
Of comrades, in friendship and mischief allied; [membrance,
How welcome to me your ne'er-fading re-
Which rests in the bosom, though hope is denied!

Again I revisit the hills where we sported,
The streams where we swam, and the fields where we fought; [we resorted,
The school where, loud warned by the bell,
To pore o'er the precepts by pedagogues taught.

Again I behold where for hours I have pond'er'd,
As reclining, at eve, on yon tombstone I lay;
Or round the steep brow of the churchyard I wander'd, [ray.
To catch the last gleam of the sun's setting

I once more view the room, with spectators surrounded, [thrown;
Where, as Zanga, I trod on Alonzo o'er-
While, to swell my young pride, such applauses resounded, [shone.*
I fancied that Mossop himself was out-

* Mossop, a contemporary of Garrick, famous for his performance of Zanga.

Or, as Lear, I pour'd forth the deep imprecation, [deprived:
By my daughters of kingdom and reason
Till fired by loud plaudits and self-adulation,
I regarded myself as a Garrick revived.

Ye dreams of my boyhood, how much I regret you!
Unfaded your memory dwells in my breast;
Though sad and deserted, I ne'er can forget you:
Your pleasures may still be in fancy possest.

To Ida full oft may remembrance restore me,
While fate shall the shades of the future unroll! [fore me,
Since darkness o'ershadows the prospect be-
More dear is the beam of the past to my soul.

But if, through the course of the years which await me, [view,
Some new scene of pleasure should open to
I will say, while with rapture the thought shall elate me, [fancy knew!"
"Oh! such were the days which my in-

TO M——.

Oh! did those eyes, instead of fire,
With bright but mild affection shine,
Though they might kindle less desire,
Love, more than mortal, would be thine.

For thou art form'd so heavenly fair,
Howe'er those orbs may wildly beam,
We must admire, but still despair;
That fatal glance forbids esteem.

When Nature stamp'd thy beauteous birth,
So much perfection in thee shone,
She fear'd that, too divine for earth,
The skies might claim thee for their own;

Therefore, to guard her dearest work,
Lest angels might dispute the prize,
She bade a secret lightning lurk
Within those once celestial eyes.

These might the boldest sylph appall,
When gleaming with meridian blaze;
Thy beauty must enrapture all;
But who can dare thine ardent gaze?

'Tis said that Berenice's hair
In stars adorns the vault of heaven;
But they would ne'er permit thee there,
Thou wouldst so far outshine the seven.

For did those eyes as planets roll,
Thy sister-lights would scarce appear;
E'en suns, which systems now control,
Would twinkle dimly through their sphere.*

TO WOMAN.

Woman! experience might have told me,
That all must love thee who behold thee;

* "Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
Having some business, do entreat her eyes
To twinkle in their spheres till they return."—
SHAKESPEARE.

Surely experience might have taught
Thy firmest promises are naught ;
But, placed in all thy charms before me,
All I forget, but to adore thee.
O Memory ! thou choicest blessing
When join'd with hope, when still possessing;
But how much cursed by every lover
When hope is fled, and passion's over !
Woman, that fair and fond deceiver,
How prompt are striplings to believe her !
How throbs the pulse when first we view
The eye that rolls in glossy blue,
Or sparkles black, or mildly throws
A beam from under hazel brows !
How quick we credit every oath,
And hear her plight the willing troth !
Fondly we hope 'twill last for aye,
When, lo ! she changes in a day.
This record will forever stand,
"Woman ! thy vows are traced in sand." *

TO M. S. G.

When I dream that you love me, you'll surely
Extend not your anger to sleep ; [forgive ;
For in visions alone your affection can live—
I rise, and it leaves me to weep.

Then, Morpheus ! envelop my faculties fast,
Shed o'er me your languor benign ; [last,
Should the dream of to-night but resemble the
What rapture celestial is mine !

They tell us that slumber, the sister of death,
Mortality's emblem is given :
To fate how I long to resign my frail breath,
If this be a foretaste of heaven !

Ah ! frown not, sweet lady, unbend your soft
brow,
Nor deem me too happy in this ;
If I sin in my dream, I atone for it now,
Thus doom'd but to gaze upon bliss.

Though in visions, sweet lady, perhaps you
may smile,
Oh ! think not my penance deficient !
When dreams of your presence my slumbers
beguile,
To awake will be torture sufficient.

TO MARY,

ON RECEIVING HER PICTURE.

This faint resemblance of thy charms,
Though strong as mortal art could give,
My constant heart of fear disarms,
Revives my hopes, and bids me live.

Here I can trace the locks of gold,
Which round thy snowy forehead wave,
The cheeks which sprung from beauty's
mould,
The lips which made me beauty's slave.

Here I can trace—ah, no ! that eye,
Whose azure floats in liquid fire,
Must all the painter's art defy,
And bid him from the task retire.

Here I behold its beauteous hue ;
But where's the beam so sweetly straying,
Which gave a lustre to its blue,
Like Luna o'er the ocean playing ?

Sweet copy ! far more dear to me,
Lifeless, unfeeling as thou art,
Than all the living forms could be,
Save her who placed thee next my heart.

She placed it, sad, with needless fear,
Lest time might shake my wavering soul,
Unconscious that her image there
Held every sense in fast control.

Through hours, through years, through time
'twill cheer ;
My hope in gloomy moments raise ;
In life's last conflict 'twill appear,
And meet my fond expiring gaze.

TO LESBIA.

Lesbia ! since far from you I've ranged,
Our souls with fond affection glow not;
You say 'tis I, not you, have changed,
I'd tell you why—but yet I know not.

Your polish'd brow no cares have crost ;
And, Lesbia ! we are not much older,
Since, trembling, first my heart I lost,
Or told my love, with hope grown bolder.

Sixteen was then our utmost age,
Two years have lingering pass'd away, love !
And now new thoughts our minds engage,
At least I feel disposed to stray, love !

'Tis I that am alone to blame,
I that am guilty of love's treason ;
Since your sweet breast is still the same,
Caprice must be my only reason.

I do not, love ! suspect your truth,
With jealous doubt my bosom heaves not;
Warm was the passion of my youth,
One trace of dark deceit it leaves not.

No, no, my flame was not pretended ;
For, oh ! I loved you most sincerely;
And—though our dream at last is ended—
My bosom still esteems you dearly.

No more we meet in yonder bowers ;
Absence has made me prone to roving !
But older, firmer hearts than ours
Have found monotony in loving.

Your cheek's soft bloom is unimpair'd,
New beauties still are daily bright'ning ;
Your eye for conquest beams prepared,
The forge of love's resistless lightning.

Arm'd thus, to make their bosoms bleed,
Many will throng to sigh like me, love !
More constant they may prove, indeed ;
Fonder, alas ! they ne'er can be, love !

* This line is almost a literal translation from a Spanish proverb.

LINES ADDRESSED TO A YOUNG LADY,

WHO HAD BEEN ALARMED BY A BULLET FIRED BY THE AUTHOR WHILE DISCHARGING HIS PISTOLS IN A GARDEN.

Doubtless, sweet girl! the hissing lead,
Wafting destruction o'er thy charms,
And hurtling o'er thy lovely head,
Has fill'd that breast with fond alarms.

Surely some envious demon's force,
Vex'd to behold such beauty here,
Impell'd the bullet's viewless course,
Diverted from its first career.

Yes! in that nearly fatal hour
The ball obey'd some hell-born guide;
But Heaven, with interposing power,
In pity turn'd the death aside.

Yet, as perchance one trembling tear
Upon that thrilling bosom fell;
Which I, th' unconscious cause of fear,
Extracted from its glistening cell:

Say, what dire penance can atone
For such an outrage done to thee?
Arraign'd before thy beauty's throne,
What punishment wilt thou decree?

Might I perform the judge's part,
The sentence I should scarce deplore;
It only would restore a heart
Which but belong'd to thee before.

The least atonement I could make
Is to become no longer free;
Henceforth I breathe but for thy sake,
Thou shalt be all in all to me.

But thou, perhaps, may'st now reject
Such expiation of my guilt;
Come, then, some other mode elect;
Let it be death, or what thou wilt.

Choose then, relentless! and I swear
Naught shall thy dread decree prevent;
Yet hold—one little word forbear!
Let it be aught but banishment.

LOVE'S LAST ADIEU.

Ἀει, δ' ἀει με φεὔγει.—Anacreon.

The roses of love glad the garden of life,
Though nurtured 'mid weeds dropping pestilent dew,
Till time crops the leaves with unmerciful knife,
Or prunes them forever, in love's last adieu.

In vain with endearments we soothe the sad heart,
In vain do we vow for an age to be true;
The chance of an hour may command us to part,
Or death disunite us in love's last adieu!

Still Hope, breathing peace through the grief-swollen breast,
Will whisper, "Our meeting we yet may renew":
With this dream of deceit half our sorrow's represt,
Nor taste we the poison of love's last adieu!

Oh! mark you yon pair: in the sunshine of youth
Love twined round their childhood his flowers as they grew;
They flourish awhile in the season of truth,
Till chill'd by the winter of love's last adieu!

Sweet lady! why thus doth a tear steal its way
Down a cheek which outrivals thy bosom in hue?
Yet why do I ask?—to distraction a prey,
Thy reason has perish'd with love's last adieu!

Oh! who is yon misanthrope, shunning mankind?
From cities to caves of the forest he flew:
There, raving, he howls his complaint to the wind;
The mountains reverberate love's last adieu!

Now hate rules a heart which in love's easy chains
Once passion's tumultuous blandishments knew;
Despair now inflames the dark tide of his veins;
He ponders in frenzy on love's last adieu!

How he envies the wretch with a soul wrapt in steel!
His pleasures are scarce, yet his troubles are few,
Who laughs at the pang which he never can feel,
And dreads not the anguish of love's last adieu!

Youth flies, life decays, even hope is o'ercast;
No more with love's former devotion we sue:
He spreads his young wing, he retires with the blast;
The shroud of affection is love's last adieu!

In this life of probation for rapture divine,
Astrea declares that some penance is due;
From him who has worship'd at love's gentle shrine,
The atonement is ample in love's last adieu!

Who kneels to the god, on his altar of light
Must myrtle and cypress alternately strew;
His myrtle, an emblem of purest delight;
His cypress, the garland of love's last adieu?

DAMÆTAS.

In law an infant, and in years a boy,*
In mind a slave to every vicious joy;
From every sense of shame and virtue wean'd;
In lies an adept, in deceit a fiend;
Versed in hypocrisy, while yet a child;
Fickle as wind, of inclinations wild;
Woman his dupe, his heedless friend a tool;
Old in the world, though scarcely broke from school:
Damætas ran through all the maze of sin,

*In law, every person is an infant who has not attained the age of twenty-one.

And found the goal when others just begin :
Even still conflicting passions shake his soul,
And bid him drain the dregs of pleasure's bowl ;
But, pall'd with vice, he breaks his former chain,
And what was once his bliss appears his bane.

TO MARION.

Marion ! why that pensive brow?
What disgust to life hast thou?
Change that discontented air :
Frowns become not one so fair.
'Tis not love disturbs thy rest,
Love's a stranger to thy breast ;
He in dimpling smiles appears,
Or mourns in sweetly timid tears,
Or bends the languid eyelid down,
But shuns the cold, forbidding frown.
Then resume thy former fire,
Some will love, and all admire ;
While that icy aspect chills us,
Naught but cool indifference thrills us.
Wouldst thou wandering hearts beguile,
Smile at least, or seem to smile.
Eyes like thine were never meant
To hide their orbs in dark restraint ;
Spite of all thou fain wouldst say,
Still in truant beams they play.
Thy lips—but here my modest Muse
Her impulse chaste must needs refuse :
She blushes, curt'sies, frowns—in short, she
Dreads lest the subject should transport me :
And flying off in search of reason,
Brings prudence back in proper season.
All I shall therefore say (whate'er
I think, is neither here nor there)
Is, that such lips, of looks endearing,
Were form'd for better things than sneering:
Of soothing compliments divested,
Advice at least's disinterested ;
Such is my artless song to thee,
From all the flow of flattery free ;
Counsel like mine is like a brother's,
My heart is given to some others ;
That is to say, unskill'd to cozen,
It shares itself among a dozen.
Marion, adieu ! oh, pr'ythee slight not
This warning, though it may delight not ;
And, lest my precepts be displeasing
To those who think remonstrance teasing,
At once I'll tell thee our opinion
Concerning woman's soft dominion :
Howe'er we gaze with admiration
On eyes of blue or lips carnation,
Howe'er the flowing locks attract us,
Howe'er those beauties may distract us,
Still fickle, we are prone to rove,
These cannot fix our souls to love ;
It is not too severe a stricture
To say they form a pretty picture ;
But wouldst thou see the secret chain
Which binds us in your humble train,
To hail you queens of all creation,
Know, in a word, 'tis Animation.

TO A LADY,

WHO PRESENTED TO THE AUTHOR A LOCK OF HAIR BRAIDED WITH HIS OWN, AND APPOINTED A NIGHT IN DECEMBER TO MEET HIM IN THE GARDEN.

These locks, which fondly thus entwine,
In firmer chains our hearts confine,
Than all th' unmeaning protestations
Which swell with nonsense love orations.
Our love is fix'd, I think we've proved it,
Nor time, nor place, nor art have moved it :
Then wherefore should we sigh and whine,
With groundless jealousy repine,
With silly whims and fancies frantic,
Merely to make our love romantic?
Why should you weep like Lydia Languish,
And fret with self-created anguish ;
Or doom the lover you have chosen,
On winter nights to sigh half frozen ;
In leafless shades to sue for pardon,
Only because the scene's a garden?
For gardens seem, by one consent,
Since Shakspeare set the precedent,
Since Juliet first declared her passion,
To form the place of assignation.*
Oh ! would some modern muse inspire,
And seat her by a sea-coal fire ;
Or had the bard at Christmas written,
And laid the scene of love in Britain,
He surely, in commiseration,
Had changed the place of declaration.
In Italy I've no objection ;
Warm nights are proper for reflection ;
But here our climate is so rigid,
That love itself is rather frigid :
Think on our chilly situation,
And curb this rage for imitation ;
Then let us meet, as oft we've done,
Beneath the influence of the sun ;
Or, if at midnight I must meet you,
Within your mansion let me greet you :
There we can love for hours together,
Much better, in such snowy weather,
Than placed in all th' Arcadian groves
That ever witness'd rural loves ;
Then, if my passion fail to please,
Next night I'll be content to freeze ;
No more I'll give a loose to laughter,
But curse my fate forever after.†

* "To form the place of assignation."] In the above little piece the author has been accused by some candid readers of introducing the name of a lady from whom he was some hundred miles distant at the time this was written ; and poor Juliet, who has slept so long in "the tomb of all the Capulets," has been converted, with a trifling alteration of her name, into an English damsel walking in a garden of their own creation, during the month of December, in a village where the author never passed a winter. Such has been the candor of some ingenious critics. He would advise these liberal commentators on taste and arbiters of decorum to read "Shakspeare."

† "But curse my fate forever after."] Having heard that a very severe and indelicate censure had been passed on the above poem, I beg leave to reply in a quotation from an admired work, "Carr's Stranger in France :"—"As we were contemplating a painting on a large scale, in which, among other figures, is the uncovered whole length of a warrior, a prudish-looking lady, who seemed to have touched the age of despera-

OSCAR OF ALVA.*

A TALE.

How sweetly shines through azure skies
The lamp of heaven on Lora's shore;
Where Alva's hoary turrets rise,
And hear the din of arms no more!

But often has yon rolling moon
On Alva's casques of silver play'd;
And view'd at midnight's silent noon,
Her chiefs in gleaming mail array'd:

And on the crimson'd rocks beneath,
Which scowl o'er ocean's sullen flow,
Pale in the scatter'd ranks of death,
She saw the gasping warrior low:

While many an eye which ne'er again
Could mark the rising orb of day,
Turn'd feebly from the gory plain,
Beheld in death her fading ray.

Once to those eyes the lamp of Love,
They blest her dear propitious light;
But now she glimmer'd from above,
A sad, funereal torch of night.

Faded is Alva's noble race,
And grey her towers are seen afar;
No more her heroes urge the chase,
Or roll the crimson tide of war.

But who was last of Alva's clan?
Why grows the moss on Alva's stone?
Her towers resound no steps of man,
They echo to the gale alone.

And when that gale is fierce and high,
A sound is heard in yonder hall:
It rises hoarsely through the sky,
And vibrates o'er the mouldering wall.

Yes, when the eddying tempest sighs,
It shakes the shield of Oscar brave;
But there no more his banners rise,
No more his plumes of sable wave.

Fair shone the sun on Oscar's birth,
When Angus hail'd his eldest born:
The vassals round their chieftain's hearth
Crowd to applaud the happy morn.

They feast upon the mountain deer,
The pibroch raised its piercing note;
To gladden more their highland cheer,
The strains in martial numbers float:

And they who heard the war-notes wild,
Hoped that one day the pibroch's strain
Should play before the hero's child
While he should lead the tartan train.

Another year is quickly past,
And Angus hails another son;
His natal day is like the last,
Nor soon the jocund feast was done.

Taught by their sire to bend the bow,
On Alva's dusky hills of wind,
The boys in childhood chased the roe,
And left their hounds in speed behind.

But ere their years of youth are o'er,
They mingle in the ranks of war;
They lightly wheel the bright claymore,
And send the whistling arrow far.

Dark was the flow of Oscar's hair,
Wildly it stream'd along the gale;
But Allan's locks were bright and fair,
And pensive seem'd his cheek, and pale.

But Oscar own'd a hero's soul.
His dark eye shone through beams of truth;
Allan had early learn'd control,
And smooth his words had been from youth.

Both, both were brave; the Saxon spear
Was shiver'd oft beneath their steel;
And Oscar's bosom scorn'd to fear,
But Oscar's bosom knew to feel;

While Allan's soul belied his form,
Unworthy with such charms to dwell:
Keen as the lightning of the storm,
On foes his deadly vengeance fell.

From high Southannon's distant tower
Arrived a young and noble dame;
With Kenneth's lands to form her dower,
Glenalvon's blue-eyed daughter came;

And Oscar claim'd the beauteous bride,
And Angus on his Oscar smiled;
It soothed the father's feudal pride
Thus to obtain Glenalvon's child.

Hark to the pibroch's pleasing note!
Hark to the swelling nuptial song!
In joyous strains the voices float,
And still the choral peal prolong.

See how the heroes' blood-red plumes
Assembled wave in Alva's hall!
Each youth his varied plaid assumes,
Attending on their chieftain's call.

It is not war their aid demands,
The pibroch plays the song of peace;
To Oscar's nuptials throng the bands,
Nor yet the sounds of pleasure cease.

But where is Oscar? sure 'tis late;
Is this a bridegroom's ardent flame?
While thronging guests and ladies wait,
Nor Oscar nor his brother came.

At length young Allan join'd the bride;
"Why comes not Oscar?" Angus said;
"Is he not here?" the youth replied;
"With me he roved not o'er the glade.

"Perchance, forgetful of the day,
'Tis his to chase the bounding roe;

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tion, after having attentively surveyed it through her glass, observed to her party, that there was a great deal of indecorum in that picture. Madame S. shrewdly whispered in my ear 'that the indecorum was in the remark.'"

* The catastrophe of this tale was suggested by the story of "Jeronyme and Lorenzo," in the first volume of Schiller's "Armenian; or, The Ghost-Seer." It also bears some resemblance to a scene in the third act of Macbeth.

Or ocean's waves prolong his stay ;
Yet Oscar's bark is seldom slow."

"Oh, no!" the anguish'd sire rejoin'd,
"Nor chase nor wave my boy delay ;
Would he to Mora seem unkind?
Would aught to her impede his way?

"Oh, search, ye chiefs! oh, search around!
Allan, with these through Alva fly ;
Till Oscar, till my son is found,
Haste, haste, nor dare attempt reply."

All is confusion—through the vale
The name of Oscar hoarsely rings ;
It rises on the murmuring gale,
Till night expands her dusky wings ;

It breaks the stillness of the night,
But echoes through her shades in vain ;
It sounds through morning's misty light,
But Oscar comes not o'er the plain.

Three days, three sleepless nights, the Chief
For Oscar search'd each mountain cave!
Then hope is lost ; in boundless grief,
His locks in grey torn ringlets wave.

"Oscar, my son!—thou God of heaven
Restore the prop of sinking age!
Or if that hope no more is given,
Yield his assassin to my rage.

"Yes, on some desert rocky shore
My Oscar's whiten'd bones must lie ;
Then grant, thou God! I ask no more,
With him his frantic sire may die!

"Yet he may live—away, despair!
Be calm, my soul! he yet may live ;
T' arraign my fate, my voice forbear!
O God! my impious prayer forgive.

"What, if he live for me no more,
I sink forgotten in the dust,
The hope of Alva's age is o'er ;
Alas! can pangs like these be just?"

Thus did the hapless parent mourn,
Till Time, which soothes severest woe,
Had bade serenity return,
And made the tear-drop cease to flow.

For still some latent hope survived
That Oscar might once more appear :
His hope now droop'd and now revived,
Till Time had told a tedious year.

Days roll'd along ; the orb of light
Again had run its destined race ;
No Oscar bless'd his father's sight,
And sorrow left a fainter trace.

For youthful Allan still remain'd,
And now his father's only joy :
And Mora's heart was quickly gain'd,
For beauty crown'd the fair-hair'd boy.

She thought that Oscar low was laid,
And Allan's face was wondrous fair ;
If Oscar lived, some other maid
Had claim'd his faithless bosom's care.

And Angus said, if one year more
In fruitless hope was pass'd away,
His fondest scruples should be o'er,
And he would name their nuptial day.

Slow roll'd the moons, but blest at last
Arrived the dearly destined morn ;
The year of anxious trembling past,
What smiles the lovers' cheeks adorn!

Hark to the pibroch's pleasing note!
Hark to the swelling nuptial song!
In joyous strains the voices float,
And still the choral peal prolong.

Again the clan, in festive crowd,
Throng through the gate of Alva's hall ;
The sounds of mirth re-echo loud,
And all their former joy recall.

But who is he, whose darken'd brow
Glooms in the midst of general mirth?
Before his eyes' far fiercer glow
The blue flames curdle o'er the hearth.

Dark is the robe which wraps his form,
And tall his plume of gory red ;
His voice is like the rising storm,
But light and trackless is his tread.

'Tis noon of night, the pledge goes round,
The bridegroom's health is deeply quaff'd ;
With shouts the vaulted roofs resound,
And all combine to hail the draught.

Sudden the stranger-chief arose,
And all the clamorous crowd are hush'd ;
And Angus' cheek with wonder glows,
And Mora's tender bosom blush'd.

"Old man!" he cried, "this pledge is done;
Thou saw'st 'twas duly drank by me :
It hail'd the nuptials of thy son :
Now will I claim a pledge from thee.

"While all around is mirth and joy,
To bless thy Allan's happy lot,
Say, hadst thou ne'er another boy?
Say, why should Oscar be forgot?"

"Alas!" the hapless sire replied,
The big tear starting as he spoke,
"When Oscar left my hall, or died,
This aged heart was almost broke.

"Thrice has the earth revolved her course
Since Oscar's form has bless'd my sight ;
And Allan is my last resource,
Since martial Oscar's death or flight."

"'Tis well," replied the stranger stern,
And fiercely flash'd his rolling eye ;
"Thy Oscar's fate I fain would learn :
Perhaps the hero did not die.

"Perchance, if those whom most he loved
Would call, thy Oscar might return ;
Perchance the chief has only roved ;
For him thy beltane yet may burn.*

* Beltane Tree, a Highland festival on the first of May, held near fires lighted for the occasion.

"Fill high the bowl the table round,
We will not claim the pledge by stealth;
With wine let every cup be crown'd;
Pledge me departed Oscar's health."

"With all my soul," old Angus said,
And fill'd his goblet to the brim:
"Here's to my boy! alive or dead,
I ne'er shall find a son like him."

"Bravely, old man, this health has sped;
But why does Allan trembling stand?
Come, drink remembrance of the dead,
And raise thy cup with firmer hand."

The crimson glow of Allan's face
Was turn'd at once to ghastly hue:
The drops of death each other chase
Adown in agonizing dew.

Thrice did he raise the goblet high,
And thrice his lips refused to taste:
For thrice he caught the stranger's eye
On his with deadly fury placed.

"And is it thus a brother hails
A brother's fond remembrance here;
If thus affection's strength prevails,
What might we not expect from fear?"

Roused by the sneer, he raised the bowl,
"Would Oscar now could share our mirth!"
Internal fear appall'd his soul;
He said, and dash'd the cup to earth.

"'Tis he; I hear my murderer's voice!"
Loud shrieks a darkly gleaming form;
"A murderer's voice!" the roof replies,
And deeply swells the bursting storm.

The tapers wink, the chieftains shrink,
The stranger's gone—amidst the crew
A form was seen in tartan green,
And tall the shade terrific grew.

His waist was bound with a broad belt round,
His plume of sable stream'd on high;
But his breast was bare with the red wounds there,
And fix'd was the glare of his glassy eye.

And thrice he smiled, with his eye so wild,
On Angus bending low the knee; [ground,
And thrice he frown'd on a chief on the
Whom shivering crowds with horror see.

The bolts loud roll from pole to pole,
The thunders through the welkin ring;
And the gleaming form, through the mist of the storm,
Was borne on high by the whirlwind's wing.

Cold was the feast, the revel ceased,
Who lies upon the stony floor?
Oblivion press'd old Angus' breast,
At length his life-pulse throbs once more.

"Away! away! let the leech essay
To pour the light on Allan's eyes:"
His sand is done—his race is run;
Oh! never more shall Allan rise!

But Oscar's breast is cold as clay,
His locks are lifted by the gale:
And Allan's barbed arrow lay
With him in dark Glentanar's vale.

And whence the dreadful stranger came,
Or who, no mortal wight can tell;
But no one doubts the form of flame,
For Alva's sons knew Oscar well.

Ambition nerved young Allan's hand,
Exulting demons wing'd his dart;
While Envy waved her burning brand,
And pour'd her venom round his heart.

Swift is the shaft from Allan's bow;
Whose streaming life-blood stains his side,
Dark Oscar's sable crest is low,
The dart has drunk his vital tide.

And Mora's eye could Allan move,
She bade his wounded pride rebel:
Alas! that eyes which beam'd with love
Should urge the soul to deeds of hell.

Lo! seest thou not a lonely tomb
Which rises o'er a warrior dead?
It glimmers through the twilight gloom;
Oh! that is Allan's nuptial bed.

Far, distant far, the noble grave
Which held his clan's great ashes stood;
And o'er his corse no banners wave,
For they were stain'd with kindred blood.

What minstrel grey, what hoary bard,
Shall Allan's deeds on harp-strings raise?
The song is glory's chief reward,
But who can strike a murderer's praise?

Unstrung, untouch'd, the harp must stand,
No minstrel dare the theme awake:
Guilt would benumb his palsied hand,
His harp in shuddering chords would break.

No lyre of fame, no hallow'd verse,
Shall sound his glories high in air:
A dying father's bitter curse,
A brother's death-groan echoes there.

THE EPISODE OF NISUS AND EURYALUS.

A PARAPHRASE FROM THE ÆNEID, LIB. IX.

Nisus, the guardian of the portal, stood,
Eager to gild his arms with hostile blood;
Well skill'd in fight the quivering lance to wield, [field:
Or pour his arrows through th' embattled
From Ida torn, he left his sylvan cave,
And sought a foreign home, a distant grave.
To watch the movements of the Daunian host,
With him Euryalus sustains the post;
No lovelier mien adorn'd the ranks of Troy,
And beardless bloom yet graced the gallant boy;
Though few the seasons of his youthful life,
As yet a novice in the martial strife,
'Twas his, with beauty, valor's gifts to share—

A soul heroic, as his form was fair : [love;
These burn with one pure flame of generous
In peace, in war, united still they move ;
Friendship and glory form their joint reward;
And now combined they hold their nightly guard.

"What god," exclaim'd the first, "instils this fire?
Or, in itself a god, what great desire?
My laboring soul, with anxious thought oppress'd,
Abhors this station of inglorious rest ;
The love of fame with this can ill accord,
Be't mine to seek for glory with my sword.
Seest thou yon camp, with torches twinkling dim, [limb?
Where drunken slumbers wrap each lazy
Where confidence and ease the watch disdain,
And drowsy Silence holds her sable reign?
Then hear my thought : In deep and sullen grief [chief ;
Our troops and leaders mourn their ancient
Now could the gifts and promised prize be thine
(The deed, the danger, and the fame be mine),
Were this decreed, beneath yon rising mound,
Methinks, an easy path perchance were found;
Which pass'd, I speed my way to Pallas' walls,
And lead Æneas from Evander's halls."

With equal ardor fired, and warlike joy,
His glowing friend address'd the Dardan boy :
"These deeds, my Nisus, shalt thou dare alone?
Must all the fame, the peril, be thine own?
Am I by thee despised, and left afar,
As one unfit to share the toils of war?
Not thus his son the great Opheltes taught ;
Not thus my sire in Argive combats fought ;
Not thus, when Ilion fell by heavenly hate,
I track'd Æneas through the walks of fate :
Thou know'st my deeds, my breast devoid of fear,
And hostile life-drops dim my gory spear.
Here is a soul with hope immortal burns,
And life, ignoble life, for *glory* spurns.
Fame, fame is cheaply earn'd by fleeting breath :
The price of honor is the sleep of death."

Then Nisus : "Calm thy bosom's fond alarms,
Thy heart beats fiercely to the din of arms.
More dear thy worth and valor than my own,
I swear by him who fills Olympus' throne !
So may I triumph, as I speak the truth,
And clasp again the comrade of my youth !
But should I fall—and he who dares advance
Through hostile legions must abide by chance:
If some Rutulian arm, with adverse blow,
Should lay the friend who ever loved thee low, [serve,
Live thou, such beauties I would fain pre-
Thy budding years a lengthen'd term deserve.
When humbled in the dust, let some one be
Whose gentle eyes will shed one tear for me,
Whose manly arm may snatch me back by force,
Or wealth redeem from foes my captive corse ;
Or, if my destiny these last deny,
If in the spoiler's power my ashes lie,
Thy pious care may raise a simple tomb,
To mark thy love, and signalize my doom.
Why should thy doting wretched mother weep
Her only boy, reclined in endless sleep?
Who for thy sake the tempest's fury dared,
Who for thy sake war's deadly peril shared ;
Who braved what woman never braved before,
And left her native for the Latin shore."

"In vain you damp the ardor of my soul,"
Replied Euryalus : "it scorns control !
Hence, let us haste !"—their brother guards arose,
Roused by their call, nor court again repose ;
The pair, buoy'd up on Hope's exulting wing,
Their stations leave, and speed to seek the king.

Now o'er the earth a solemn stillness ran,
And lull'd alike the cares of brute and man ;
Save where the Dardan leaders nightly hold
Alternate converse, and their plans unfold.
On one great point the council are agreed,
An instant message to their prince decreed ;
Each lean'd upon the lance he well could wield,
And poised with easy arm his ancient shield ;
When Nisus and his friend their leave request
To offer something to their high behest.
With anxious tremors, yet unawed by fear,
The faithful pair before the throne appear ;
Iulus greets them ; at his kind command,
The elder first addressed the hoary band.

"With patience" (thus Hyrtacides began)
"Attend, nor judge from youth our humble plan.
Where yonder beacons half expiring beam,
Our slumbering foes of future conquests dream,
Nor heed that we a secret path have traced,
Between the ocean and the portal placed.
Beneath the covert of the blackening smoke,
Whose shade securely our design will cloak,
If you, ye chiefs, and fortune will allow,
We'll bend our course to yonder mountain's brow,
Where Pallas' walls at distance meet the sight,
Seen o'er the glade when not obscured by night :
Then shall Æneas in his pride return, [urn ;
When hostile matrons raise their offspring's
And Latian spoils and purpled heaps of dead
Shall mark the havoc of our hero's tread.
Such is our purpose, not unknown the way ;
Where yonder torrent's devious waters stray,
Oft have we seen, when hunting by the stream,
The distant spires above the valleys gleam."

Mature in years, for sober wisdom famed,
Moved by the speech, Alethes here exclaim'd :
"Ye parent gods ! who rule the fate of Troy,

Still dwells the Dardan spirit in the boy ;
When minds like these in striplings thus ye raise,
Yours is the godlike act, be yours the praise ;
In gallant youth, my fainting hopes revive,
And Ilion's wonted glories still survive."
Then in his warm embrace the boys he press'd,
And, quivering, strain'd them to his aged breast ;
With tears the burning cheek of each bedew'd,
And, sobbing, thus his first discourse renew'd:
"What gift, my countrymen, what martial prize
Can we bestow, which you may not despise?
Our deities the first best boon have given—
Internal virtues are the gift of heaven. [earth,
What poor rewards can bless your deeds on
Doubtless await such young, exalted worth.
Æneas and Ascanius shall combine
To yield applause far, far surpassing mine."

Iulus then ! "By all the powers above !
By those Penates who my country love !
By hoary Vesta's sacred fane, I swear,
My hopes are all in you, ye generous pair !
Restore my father to my grateful sight,
And all my sorrows yield to one delight.
Nisus ! two silver goblets are thine own,
Saved from Arisba's stately domes o'erthrown!
My sire secured them on that fatal day,
Nor left such bowls an Argive robber's prey :
Two massy tripods, also, shall be thine ;
Two talents polish'd from the glittering mine ;
An ancient cup, which Tyrian Dido gave,
While yet our vessels press'd the Punic wave :
But when the hostile chiefs at length bow down,
When great Æneas wears Hesperia's crown,
The casque, the buckler, and the fiery steed
Which Turnus guides with more than mortal speed,
Are thine ; no envious lot shall then be cast,
I pledge my word, irrevocably past :
Nay more, twelve slaves, and twice six captive dames ; [flames,
To soothe thy softer hours with amorous
And all the realms which now the Latins sway
The labors of to-night shall well repay.
But thou, my generous youth, whose tender years [veres,
Are near my own, whose worth my heart re-
Henceforth affection, sweetly thus begun,
Shall join our bosoms and our souls in one ;
Without thy aid, no glory shall be mine ;
Without thy dear advice, no great design ;
Alike through life esteem'd, thou godlike boy,
In war my bulwark, and in peace my joy."

To him Euryalus : "No day shall shame
The rising glories which from this I claim.
Fortune may favor, or the skies may frown,
But valor, spite of fate, obtains renown.
Yet, ere from hence our eager steps depart,
One boon I beg, the nearest to my heart :
My mother, sprung from Priam's royal line,
Like thine ennobled, hardly less divine,
Nor Troy, nor king Acestes' realms restrain
Her feeble age from dangers of the main :
Alone she came, all selfish fears above,
A bright example of maternal love.
Unknown the secret enterprise I brave,
Lest grief should bend my parent to the grave;
From this alone no fond adieus I seek,
No fainting mother's lips have press'd my cheek ;
By gloomy night and thy right hand I vow
Her parting tears would shake my purpose now :
Do thou, my prince, her failing age sustain,
In thee her much-loved child may live again :
Her dying hours with pious conduct bless,
Assist her wants, relieve her fond distress :
So dear a hope must all my soul inflame,
To rise in glory, or to fall in fame."
Struck with a filial care so deeply felt,
In tears at once the Trojan warriors melt :
Faster than all, Iulus' eyes o'erflow ;
Such love was his, and such had been his woe.
"All thou hast asked, receive," the prince replied ;
"Nor this alone, but many a gift beside.
To cheer thy mother's years shall be my aim,
Creusa's style but wanting to the dame.*
Fortune an adverse, wayward course may run,
But bless'd thy mother in so dear a son.
Now, by my life !—my sire's most sacred oath,
To thee I pledge my full, my firmest troth,
All the rewards which once to thee were vow'd,
If thou shouldst fall, on her shall be bestow'd."
Thus spoke the weeping prince, then forth to view
A gleaming falchion from the sheath he drew ;
Lycaon's utmost skill had graced the steel,
For friends to envy, and for foes to feel :
A tawny hide, the Moorish lion's spoil,
Slain midst the forest, in the hunter's toil,
Mnestheus to guard the elder youth bestows,
And old Alethes' casque defends his brows.
Arm'd, thence they go, while all th' assembled train,
To aid their cause, implore the gods in vain.
More than a boy, in wisdom and in grace,
Iulus holds amidst the chiefs his place :
His prayer he sends, but what can prayers avail,
Lost in the murmurs of the sighing gale !

The trench is pass'd, and, favor'd by the night, [flight.
Through sleeping foes they wheel their wary
When shall the sleep of many a foe be o'er?
Alas ! some slumber who shall wake no more !
Chariots and bridles mix'd with arms are seen;
And flowing flasks, and scatter'd troops between ;
Bacchus and Mars to rule the camp combine ;
A mingled chaos this of war and wine.
"Now," cries the first, "for deeds of blood prepare,
With me the conquest and the labor share :

* The mother of Iulus, lost on the night when Troy was taken.

Here lies our path ; lest any hand arise, [dies ;
Watch thou, while many a dreaming chieftain
I'll carve our passage through the heedless foe,
And clear thy road with many a deadly blow."
His whispering accents then the youth re-
press'd, [ing breast ;
And pierced proud Rhamnes through his pant-
Stretch'd at his ease, th' incautious king re-
posed ;
Debauch, and not fatigue, his eyes had clos'd ;
To Turnus dear, a prophet and a prince,
His omens more than augur's skill evince ;
But he, who thus foretold the fate of all,
Could not avert his own untimely fall.
Next Remus' armor-bearer hapless fell,
And three unhappy slaves the carnage swell ;
The charioteer along his courser's sides
Expires, the steel his sever'd neck divides :
And, last, his lord is number'd with the dead ;
Bounding convulsive, flies the gasping head ;
From the swoll'n veins the blackening tor-
rents pour : [gore.
Stain'd is the couch and earth with clotting
Young Lamyrus and Lamus next expire,
And gay Serranus, fill'd with youthful fire ;
Half the long night in childish games was
pass'd ;
Lull'd by the potent grape, he slept at last :
Ah ! happier far had he the morn surveyed,
And till Aurora's dawn his skill display'd.

In slaughter'd fold, the keepers lost in sleep,
His hungry fangs a lion thus may steep ;
'Mid the sad flock, at dead of night he prowls,
With murder glutted, and in carnage rolls :
Insatiate still, through teeming herds he
roams ;
In seas of gore the lordly tyrant foams.

Noiseless the'other's deadly vengeance came,
But falls on feeble crowds without a name ;
His wound unconscious Fadus scarce can feel,
Yet wakeful Rhæsus sees the threatening
steel ;
His coward breast behind a jar he hides,
And vainly in the weak defence confides :
Full in his heart the falchion search'd his
veins,
The reeking weapon bears alternate stains ;
Through wine and blood, commingling as
they flow,
One feeble spirit seeks the shades below.
Now where Messapus dwelt they bend their
way,
Whose fires emit a faint and trembling ray ;
There, unconfined, behold each grazing steed,
Unwatch'd, unheeded, on the herbage feed :
Brave Nisus here arrests his comrade's arm,
Too flush'd with carnage, and with conquest
warm ; [pass'd ;
"Hence let us haste, the dangerous path is
Full foes enough to-night have breathed their
last :
Soon will the day those eastern clouds adorn ;
Now let us speed, nor tempt the rising morn."

What silver arms, with various art emboss'd,
What bowls and mantles in confusion toss'd,
They leave regardless ! yet one glittering prize
Attracts the younger hero's wandering eyes ;
The gilded harness Rhamnes' coursers felt,
The gems which stud the monarch's golden
belt ;
This from the pallid corse was quickly torn,
Once by a line of former chieftains worn.
Th' exulting boy the studded girdle wears,
Messapus' helm his head in triumph bears ;
Then from the tents their cautious steps they
bend,
To seek the vale where safer paths extend.

Just at this hour, a band of Latian horse
To Turnus' camp pursue their destined
course ;
While the slow foot their tardy march delay,
The knights impatient spur along the way :
Three hundred mail-clad men, by Volscens led
To Turnus with their master's promise sped :
Now they approach the trench, and view the
walls,
When, on the left, a light reflection falls ;
The plunder'd helmet, through the waning
night,
Sheds forth a silver radiance, glancing bright.
Volscens with question loud the pair alarms :
"Stand, stragglers ! stand ! why early thus
in arms ? [no reply :
From whence ? to whom ?"—He meets with
Trusting the covert of the night, they fly :
The thicket's depth with hurried pace they
tread, [spread.
While round the wood the hostile squadron

With breaks entangled, scarce a path be-
tween,
Dreary and dark appears the sylvan scene :
Euryalus his heavy spoils impede, [lead ;
The boughs and winding turns his steps mis-
But Nisus scours along the forest's maze
To where Latinus' steeds in safety graze.
Then backward o'er the plain his eyes extend,
On every side they seek his absent friend.
"O God ! my boy," he cries, "of me bereft,
In what impending perils art thou left !"
Listening he runs—above the waving trees,
Tumultuous voices swell the passing breeze.
The war-cry rises, thundering hoofs around
Wake the dark echoes of the trembling
ground.
Again he turns, of footsteps hears the noise ;
The sound elates, the sight his hope destroys :
The hapless boy a ruffian train surround,
While lengthening shades his weary way con-
found ; [pursue,
Him with loud shouts the furious knights
Struggling in vain, a captive to the crew.
What can his friend 'gainst thronging num-
bers dare ? [share ?
Ah ! must he rush, his comrade's fate to
What force, what aid, what stratagem essay,
Back to redeem the Latian spoiler's prey ?
His life a votive ransom nobly give,
Or die with him for whom he wished to live ?

Poising with strength his lifted lance on high,
On Luna's orb he cast his frenzied eye :—
"Goddess serene, transcending every star !
Queen of the sky, whose beams are seen afar !
By night heaven owns thy sway, by day the grove, [rove ;
When, as chaste Dian, here thou deign'st to
If e'er myself, or sire, have sought to grace
Thine altars with the produce of the chase,
Speed, speed my dart to pierce yon vaunting crowd,
To free my friend, and scatter far the proud."
Thus having said, the hissing dart he flung ;
Through parted shades the hurtling weapon sung ;
The thirsty point in Sulmo's entrails lay,
Transfix'd his heart, and stretch'd him on the clay :
He sobs, he dies—the troop in wild amaze,
Unconscious whence the death, with terror gaze. [riven,
While pale they stare, through Tagus' temples
A second shaft with equal force is driven :
Fierce Volscens rolls around his lowering eyes ;
Veil'd by the night, secure the Trojan lies.
Burning with wrath, he view'd his soldiers fall, [all !"
"Thou youth accurst, thy life shall pay for
Quick from the sheath his flaming glaive he drew,
And, raging, on the boy defenceless flew.
Nisus no more the blackening shade conceals,
Forth, forth he starts, and all his love reveals;
Aghast, confused, his fears to madness rise,
And pour these accents, shrieking as he flies:
"Me, me—your vengeance hurl on me alone ;
Here sheathe the steel, my blood is all your own. [attest !
Ye starry spheres ! thou conscious Heaven !
He could not—durst not—lo ! the guile confest !
All, all was mine—his early fate suspend ;
He only loved too well his hapless friend :
Spare, spare, ye chiefs ! from him your rage remove ; [love."
His fault was friendship, all his crime was
He pray'd in vain ; the dark assassin's sword
Pierced the fair side, the snowy bosom gored ;
Lowly to earth inclines his plume-clad crest,
And sanguine torrents mantle o'er his breast:
As some young rose, whose blossom scents the air,
Languid in death, expires beneath the share;
Or crimson poppy, sinking with the shower,
Declining gently, falls a fading flower ;
Thus, sweetly drooping, bends his lovely head,
And lingering beauty hovers round the dead.

But fiery Nisus stems the battle's tide,
Revenge his leader, and despair his guide :
Volscens must soon appease his comrade's ghost ; [foe ;
Steel, flashing, pours on steel, foe crowds on
Rage nerves his arm, fate gleams in every blow ;
In vain beneath unnumber'd wounds he bleeds,
Nor wounds, nor death, distracted Nisus heeds ;
In viewless circles wheel'd, his falchion flies,
Nor quits the hero's grasp till Volscens dies ;
Deep in his throat its end the weapon found,
The tyrant's soul fled groaning through the wound.
Thus Nisus all his fond affection proved—
Dying, revenged the fate of him he loved ;
Then on his bosom sought his wonted place,
And death was heavenly in his friend's embrace.

Celestial pair ! if aught my verse can claim,
Wafted on Time's broad pinion, yours is fame !
Ages on ages shall your fate admire,
No future days shall see your names expire,
While stands the Capitol, immortal dome !
And vanquish'd millions hail their empress, Rome !

TRANSLATION FROM THE MEDEA OF EURIPIDES.

[Ἐρῶτες ὕπερ μὲν ἀγὰν, κ. τ. λ.]

When fierce conflicting passions urge
The breast where love is wont to glow,
What mind can stem the stormy surge
Which rolls the tide of human woe ?
The hope of praise, the dread of shame,
Can rouse the tortured breast no more ;
The wild desire, the guilty flame,
Absorbs each wish it felt before.

But if affection gently thrills
The soul by purer dreams possest,
The pleasing balm of mortal ills
In love can soothe the aching breast :
If thus thou comest in disguise,
Fair Venus ! from thy native heaven,
What heart unfeeling would despise
The sweetest boon the gods have given ?

But never from thy golden bow
May I beneath the shaft expire !
Whose creeping venom, sure and slow,
Awakes an all-consuming fire :
Ye racking doubts ! ye jealous fears !
With others wage internal war ;
Repentance, source of future tears,
From me be ever distant far !

May no distracting thoughts destroy
The holy calm of sacred love !
May all the hours be wing'd with joy,
Which hover faithful hearts above !
Fair Venus ! on thy myrtle shrine
May I with some fond lover sigh,
Whose heart may mingle pure with mine—
With me to live, with me to die !

My native soil ! beloved before,
Now dearer as my peaceful home,
Ne'er may I quit thy rocky shore,
A hapless banish'd wretch to roam !

This very day, this very hour,
May I resign this fleeting breath!
Nor quit my silent humble bower;
A doom to me far worse than death.

Have I not heard the exile's sigh,
And seen the exile's silent tear,
Through distant climes condemn'd to fly,
A pensive weary wanderer here?
Ah! hapless dame! no sire bewails,*
No friend thy wretched fate deplores,
No kindred voice with rapture hails
Thy steps within a stranger's doors.

Perish the fiend whose iron heart,
To fair affection's truth unknown,
Bids her he fondly loved depart,
Unpitied, helpless and alone;
Who ne'er unlocks with silver key†
The milder treasures of his soul—
May such a friend be far from me,
And ocean's storms between us roll!

THOUGHTS SUGGESTED BY A COLLEGE EXAMINATION.

High in the midst, surrounded by his peers,
Magnus his ample front sublime uprears:
Placed on his chair of state, he seems a god,
While Sophs and Freshmen tremble at his nod.
As all around sit wrapt in speechless gloom,
His voice in thunder shakes the sounding dome;
Denouncing dire reproach to luckless fools,
Unskill'd to plod in mathematic rules.

Happy the youth in Euclid's axioms tried,
Though little versed in any art beside;
Who, scarcely skill'd an English line to pen,
Scans Attic metres with a critic's ken.
What, though he knows not how his fathers bled,
When civil discord piled the fields with dead,
When Edward bade his conquering bands advance,
Or Henry trampled on the crest of France,
Though marvelling at the name of Magna Charta,
Yet well he recollects the laws of Sparta;
Can tell what edicts sage Lycurgus made,
While Blackstone's on the shelf neglected laid;
Of Grecian dramas vaunts the deathless fame,
Of Avon's bard remembering scarce the name.

Such is the youth whose scientific pate
Class-honors, medals, fellowships, await;
Or even perhaps the declamation prize,
If to such glorious height he lifts his eyes.
But lo! no common orator can hope
The envied silver cup within his scope.
Not that our heads much eloquence require,
Th' Athenian's* glowing style or Tully's fire.
A manner clear or warm is useless, since
We do not try by speaking to convince.
Be other orators of pleasing proud—
We speak to please ourselves, not move the crowd:
Our gravity prefers the muttering tone;
A proper mixture of the squeak and groan:
No borrow'd grace of action must be seen;
The slightest motion would displease the Dean;
Whilst every staring graduate would prate
Against what he could never imitate.

The man who hopes t' obtain the promised cup
Must in one posture stand, and ne'er look up;
Nor stop, but rattle over every word—
No matter what, so it can *not* be heard.
Thus let him hurry on, nor think to rest:
Who speaks the fastest 's sure to speak the best;
Who utters most within the shortest space
May safely hope to win the wordy race.

The sons of science these, who, thus repaid,
Linger in ease, in Granta's sluggish shade;
Where on Cam's sedgy bank supine they lie
Unknown, unhonored live, unwept-for die:
Dull as the pictures which adorn their halls,
They think all learning fix'd within their walls:
In manners rude, in foolish forms precise,
All modern arts affecting to despise; [note,†
Yet prizing Bentley's, Brunck's, or Porson's
More than the verse on which the critic wrote:
Vain as their honors, heavy as their ale,
Sad as their wit, and tedious as their tale;
To friendship dead, though not untaught to feel
When Self and Church demand a bigot zeal,
With eager haste they court the lord of power,
Whether 'tis Pitt or Petty rules the hour;‡
To him, with suppliant smiles, they bend the head,
While distant mitres to their eyes are spread.
But should a storm o'erwhelm him with disgrace,
They'd fly to seek the next who fill'd his place.
Such are the men who learning's treasures guard!
Such is their practice, such is their reward!
This much, at least, we may presume to say—
The premium can't exceed the price they pay.

TO A BEAUTIFUL QUAKER.

Sweet girl! though only once we met,
That meeting I shall ne'er forget;

* Medea, who accompanied Jason to Corinth, was deserted by him for the daughter of Creon, king of that city. The chorus from which this is taken here addresses Medea; though a considerable liberty is taken with the original, by expanding the idea, as also in some other parts of the translation.

† The original means literally, "disclosing the bright key of the mind."

* Demosthenes.

† Professor Porson, of Trinity College, Cambridge: a man whose powers of mind and writings may, perhaps, justify their preference.

‡ Since this was written, Lord Henry Petty [now Marquis of Lansdowne] has lost his place, and subsequently (I had almost said consequently) the honor of representing the University. A fact so glaring requires no comment.

And though we ne'er may meet again,
Remembrance will thy form retain.
I would not say, "I love," but still
My senses struggle with my will:
In vain, to drive thee from my breast,
My thoughts are more and more represt;
In vain I check the rising sighs,
Another to the last replies:
Perhaps this is not love, but yet
Our meeting I can ne'er forget.

What though we never silence broke,
Our eyes a sweeter language spoke;
The tongue in flattering falsehood deals,
And tells a tale it never feels:
Deceit the guilty lips impart,
And hush the mandates of the heart:
But soul's interpreters, the eyes,
Spurn such restraint, and scorn disguise.
As thus our glances oft conversed,
And all our bosoms felt rehearsed,
No spirit from within reproved us,
Say rather, "'twas the spirit mòved us,"
Though what they uttered I repress,
Yet I conceive thou'lt partly guess:
For as on thee my memory ponders,
Perchance to me thine also wanders.
This for myself, at least, I'll say, [day.
Thy form appears through night, through
Awake, with it my fancy teems;
In sleep, it smiles in fleeting dreams;
The vision charms the hours away
And bids me curse Aurora's ray
For breaking slumbers of delight,
Which make me wish for endless night.
Since, oh! whate'er my future fate,
Shall joy or woe my steps await,
Tempted by love, by storms beset,
Thine image I can ne'er forget.

Alas! again no more we meet,
No more our former looks repeat;
Then let me breathe this parting prayer,
The dictate of my bosom's care:
"May Heaven so guard my lovely Quaker,
That anguish never can o'ertake her;
That peace and virtue ne'er forsake her,
But bliss be aye her heart's partaker.
Oh! may the happy mortal fated
To be, by dearest ties, related,
For her each hour new joys discover,
And lose the husband in the lover!
May that fair bosom never know
What 'tis to feel the restless woe
Which stings the soul with vain regret
Of him who never can forget!"

THE CORNELIAN.

No specious splendor of this stone
Endears it to my memory ever;
With lustre only once it shone,
And blushes modest as the giver.

Some, who can sneer at friendship's ties,
Have for my weakness oft reproved me;
Yet still the simple gift I prize,
For I am sure the giver loved me.

He offer'd it with downcast look,
As fearful that I might refuse it;
I told him, when the gift I took,
My only fear should be to lose it.

This pledge attentively I view'd,
And sparkling as I held it near,
Methought one drop the stone bedew'd,
And ever since I've loved a tear.

Still, to adorn his humble youth,
Nor wealth nor birth their treasures yield;
But he who seeks the flowers of truth
Must quit the garden for the field.

'Tis not the plant uprear'd in sloth,
Which beauty shows, and sheds perfume;
The flowers which yield the most of both
In Nature's wild luxuriance bloom.

Had Fortune aided Nature's care,
For once forgetting to be blind,
His would have been an ample share,
If well proportion'd to his mind.

But had the goddess clearly seen,
His form had fix'd her fickle breast;
Her countless hoards would his have been,
And none remain'd to give the rest.

AN OCCASIONAL PROLOGUE,

DELIVERED PREVIOUS TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE "WHEEL OF FORTUNE" AT A PRIVATE THEATRE.

Since the refinement of this polish'd age
Has swept immoral raillery from the stage;
Since taste has now expunged licentious wit,
Which stamp'd disgrace on all an author writ;
Since now to please with purer scenes we seek,
Nor dare to call the blush from Beauty's cheek;
Oh! let the modest Muse some pity claim,
And meet indulgence, though she find not fame.
Still, not for her alone we wish respect,
Others appear more conscious of defect:
To-night no veteran Roscii you behold,
In all the arts of scenic action old;
No Cooke, no Kemble, can salute you here,
No Siddons draw the sympathetic tear;
To-night you throng to witness the *début*
Of embryo actors, to the Drama new:
Here, then, our almost unfledged wings we try;
Clip not our pinions ere the birds can fly:
Failing in this our first attempt to soar,
Drooping, alas! we fail to rise no more.
Not one poor trembler only fear betrays,
Who hopes, yet almost dreads, to meet your praise.
But all our *dramatis personæ* wait
In fond suspense this crisis of their fate.
No venal views our progress can retard,
Your generous plaudits are our sole reward.
For these, each Hero all his power displays,
Each timid Heroine shrinks before your gaze.
Surely the last will some protection find;
None to the softer sex can prove unkind;

While Youth and Beauty form the female shield,
The sternest censor to the fair must yield.
Yet, should our feeble efforts nought avail,
Should, after all, our best endeavors fail,
Still let some mercy in your bosoms live,
And, if you can't applaud, at least forgive.

ON THE DEATH OF MR. FOX,

THE FOLLOWING ILLIBERAL IMPROMPTU APPEARED IN A MORNING PAPER.

"Our nation's foes lament on Fox's death,
But bless the hour when Pitt resign'd his breath:
These feelings wide, let sense and truth unclue,
We give the palm where Justice points its due."

TO WHICH THE AUTHOR OF THESE PIECES SENT THE FOLLOWING REPLY.

O factious viper! whose envenom'd tooth
Would mangle still the dead, perverting truth,
What though our "nation's foes" lament the fate,
With generous feeling, of the good and great,
Shall dastard tongues essay to blast the name
Of him whose meed exists in endless fame?
When Pitt expired in plenitude of power,
Though ill success obscured his dying hour,
Pity her dewy wings before him spread,
For noble spirits "war not with the dead."
His friends, in tears, a last sad requiem gave,
As all his errors slumber'd in the grave;
He sunk, an Atlas bending 'neath the weight
Of cares o'erwhelming our conflicting state;
When, lo! a Hercules in Fox appear'd,
Who for a time the ruin'd fabric rear'd;
He, too, is fall'n, who Britain's loss supplied,
With him our fast-reviving hopes have died;
Not one great people only raise his urn,
All Europe's far-extended regions mourn.
"These feelings wide, let sense and truth unclue,
To give the palm where Justice points its due";
Yet let not canker'd Calumny assail,
Or round our statesman wind her gloomy veil.
Fox! o'er whose corse a mourning world must weep,
Whose dear remains in honor'd marble sleep;
For whom, at last, e'en hostile nations groan,
While friends and foes alike his talents own;
Fox shall in Britain's future annals shine,
Nor e'en to Pitt the patriot's palm resign;
Which Envy, wearing Candor's sacred mask,
For Pitt, and Pitt alone, has dared to ask.

THE TEAR.

"O lachrymarum fons, tenero sacros
Ducentium ortus ex animo; quater
Felix! in imo qui scatentem
Pectore te, pia Nympha, sensit."—Gray.

When Friendship or Love our sympathies move,
When Truth in a glance should appear,
The lips may beguile with a dimple or smile,
But the test of affection's a Tear.

Too oft is a smile but the hypocrite's wile
To mask detestation or fear;
Give me the soft sigh, whilst the soul-telling eye
Is dimm'd for a time with a Tear.

Mild Charity's glow, to us mortals below,
Shows the soul from barbarity clear;
Compassion will melt where this virtue is felt,
And its dew is diffused in a Tear.

The man doom'd to sail with the blast of the gale,
Through billows Atlantic to steer,
As he bends o'er the wave which may soon be his grave,
The green sparkles bright with a Tear.

The soldier braves death for a fanciful wreath
In Glory's romantic career;
But he raises the foe when in battle laid low,
And bathes every wound with a Tear.

If with high-bounding pride he return to his bride,
Renouncing the gore-crimson'd spear,
All his toils are repaid, when, embracing the maid,
From her eyelid he kisses the Tear.

Sweet scene of my youth! seat of Friendship and Truth, *
Where love chased each fast-fleeting year,
Loth to leave thee, I mourn'd, for a last look I turn'd,
But thy spire was scarce seen through a Tear.

Though my vows I can pour to my Mary no more,
My Mary to love once so dear,
In the shade of her bower I remember the hour
She rewarded those vows with a Tear.

By another possest, may she live ever blest!
Her name still my heart must revere:
With a sigh I resign what I once thought was mine,
And forgive her deceit with a Tear.

Ye friends of my heart, ere from you I depart,
This hope to my breast is most near:
If again we shall meet in this rural retreat,
May we meet, as we part, with a Tear.

When my soul wings her flight to the regions of night,
And my corse shall recline on its bier,
As ye pass by the tomb where my ashes consume,
Oh! moisten their dust with a Tear.

May no marble bestow the splendor of woe,
Which the children of vanity rear;
No fiction of fame shall blazon my name,
All I ask—all I wish—is a Tear.

REPLY TO SOME VERSES

OF J. M. B. PIGOT, ESQ., ON THE CRUELTY OF HIS MISTRESS.

Why, Pigot, complain of this damsel's disdain,
Why thus in despair do you fret?

* Harrow.

For months you may try, yet, believe me, a
Will never obtain a coquette. [sigh
Would you teach her to love? For a time
seem to rove:
At the first she may frown in a pet;
But leave her awhile, she shortly will smile,
And then you may kiss your coquette.

For such are the airs of these fanciful fairs,
They think all our homage a debt:
Yet a partial neglect soon takes an effect,
And humbles the proudest coquette.

Dissemble your pain, and lengthen your chain,
And seem her hauteur to regret;
If again you shall sigh, she no more will deny
That yours is the rosy coquette.

If still, from false pride, your pangs she de-
This whimsical virgin forget; [ride,
Some other admire, who will melt with your
And laugh at the little coquette. [fire,

For me, I adore some twenty or more,
And love them most dearly; but yet,
Though my heart they enthrall, I'd abandon
them all,
Did they act like your blooming coquette.

No longer repine, adopt this design,
And break through her slight-woven net;
Away with despair, no longer forbear
To fly from the captious coquette.

Then quit her, my friend! your bosom defend,
Ere quite with her snares you're beset;
Lest your deep-wounded heart, when in-
censed by the smart,
Should lead you to curse the coquette.

TO THE SIGHING STREPHON.

Your pardon, my friend, if my rhymes did of-
Your pardon, a thousand times o'er. [fend,
From friendship I strove your pangs to re-
But I swear I will do so no more. [move,

Since your beautiful maid your flame has re-
No more I your folly regret; [paid,
She's now most divine, and I bow at the
Of this quickly reformed coquette. [shrine

Yet still, I must own, I should never have
known
From your verses what else she deserved;
Your pain seem'd so great, I pitied your fate,
As your fair was so devilish reserved.

Since the balm-breathing kiss of this magical
miss
Can such wonderful transports produce;
Since the "world you forget, when your lips
once have met,"
My counsel will get but abuse.

You say, when "I rove, I know nothing of
'Tis true, I am given to range: [love";
If I rightly remember, I've loved a good
number,
Yet there's pleasure, at least, in a change.

I will not advance, by the rules of romance,
To humor a whimsical fair;
Though a smile may delight, yet a frown won't
Or drive me to dreadful despair. [affright,

While my blood is thus warm I ne'er shall
To mix in the Platonists' school; [reform,
Of this I am sure, was my passion so pure,
Thy mistress would think me a fool.

And if I should shun every woman for one,
Whose image must fill my whole breast—
Whom I must prefer, and sigh but for her—
What an insult 'twould be to the rest!

Now, Strephon, good-bye, I cannot deny
Your passion appears most absurd;
Such love as you plead is pure love indeed,
For it only consists in the word.

TO ELIZA.

Eliza, what fools are the Mussulman sect,
Who to women deny the soul's future ex-
istence! [defect,
Could they see thee, Eliza, they'd own their
And this doctrine would meet with a gen-
eral resistance.

Had their prophet possess'd half an atom of
sense, [driven;
He ne'er would have women from paradise
Instead of his houris, a flimsy pretence,
With women alone he had peopled his
heaven.

Yet still, to increase our calamities more,
Not content with depriving your bodies of
spirit, [four!—
He allots one poor husband to share amongst
With souls you'd dispense; but this last
who could bear it?

His religion to please neither party is made,
On husbands 'tis hard, to the wives most
uncivil;
Still I can't contradict, what so oft has been
said, [the devil."
"Though women are angels, yet wedlock's

LACHIN Y GAIR. *

Away, ye gay landscapes, ye gardens of roses!
In you let the minions of luxury rove;
Restore me the rocks where the snow-flake
reposes, [love:
Though still they are sacred to freedom and
Yet, Caledonia, beloved are thy mountains,

* "Lachin y Gair," or, as it is pronounced in the Erse, "Loch na Garr," towers proudly pre-eminent in the Northern Highlands, near Invercauld. One of our modern tourists mentions it as the highest mountain, perhaps, in Great Britain. Be this as it may, it is certainly one of the most sublime and picturesque amongst our "Caledonian Alps." Its appearance is of a dusky hue, but the summit is the seat of eternal snows. Near Lachin y Gair I spent some of the early part of my life, the recollection of which has given birth to these stanzas.

Round their white summits though elements war; [ing fountains,
Though cataracts form 'stead of smooth-flow-
I sigh for the valley of dark Loch na Garr.

Ah! there my young footsteps in infancy wander'd; [plaid;*
My cap was the bonnet, my cloak was the
On chieftains long perish'd my memory pon-der'd, [glade;
As daily I strode through the pine-cover'd
I sought not my home till the day's dying glory [star;
Gave place to the rays of the bright polar
For fancy was cheer'd by traditional story,
Disclosed by the natives of dark Loch na Garr.

"Shades of the dead! have I not heard your voices [gale?"
Rise on the night-rolling breath of the
Surely the soul of the hero rejoices,
And rides on the wind, o'er his own High-land vale. [gathers,
Round Loch na Garr while the stormy mist
Winter presides in his cold icy car:
Clouds there encircle the forms of my fathers;
They dwell in the tempests of dark Loch na Garr.

"Ill-starr'd, though brave, did no visions foreboding†
Tell you that fate had forsaken your cause?"
Ah! were you destined to die at Culloden,‡
Victory crown'd not your fall with applause:
Still were you happy in death's earthly slum-ber, [Braemar;§
You rest with your clan in the caves of
The pibroch resounds to the piper's loud number, [na Garr.
Your deeds on the echoes of dark Loch

Years have roll'd on, Loch na Garr, since I left you,
Years must elapse ere I tread you again:
Nature of verdure and flowers has bereft you,
Yet still are you dearer than Albion's plain.
England! thy beauties are tame and domes-tic, [afar;
To one who has roved o'er the mountains
Oh for the crags that are wild and majestic!
The steep frowning glories of dark Loch na Garr!

* This word is erroneously pronounced "plad"; the proper pronunciation (according to the Scotch) is shown by the orthography.

† I allude here to my maternal ancestors, "the Gordons," many of whom fought for the unfortunate Prince Charles, better known by the name of the Pretender. This branch was nearly allied by blood, as well as attachment, to the Stuarts. George, the second Earl of Huntly, married the Princess Annabella Stuart, daughter of James the First of Scotland. By her he left four sons: the third, Sir William Gordon, I have the honor to claim as one of my progenitors.

‡ Whether any perished in the battle of Culloden, I am not certain; but as many fell in the insurrection, I have used the name of the principal action, "pars pro toto."

§ A tract of the Highlands so called. There is also a Castle of Braemar.

TO ROMANCE.

Parent of golden dreams, Romance!
Auspicious queen of childish joys,
Who lead'st along, in airy dance,
Thy votive train of girls and boys;
At length, in spells no longer bound,
I break the fetters of my youth;
No more I tread thy mystic round,
But leave thy realms for those of Truth.

And yet 'tis hard to quit the dreams
Which haunt the unsuspicious soul,
Where every nymph a goddess seems,
Whose eyes through rays immortal roll;
While Fancy holds her boundless reign,
And all assume a varied hue;
When virgins seem no longer vain,
And even woman's smiles are true.

And must we own thee but a name,
And from thy hall of clouds descend?
Nor find a sylph in every dame,
A Pylades in every friend?*
But leave at once thy realms of air
To mingling bands of fairy elves;
Confess that woman's false as fair,
And friends have feelings for themselves!

With shame I own I've felt thy sway;
Repentant, now thy reign is o'er,
No more thy precepts I obey,
No more on fancied pinions soar.
Fond fool! to love a sparkling eye,
And think that eye to truth was dear;
To trust a passing wanton's sigh,
And melt beneath a wanton's tear!

Romance! disgusted with deceit,
Far from thy motley court I fly,
Where Affectation holds her seat,
And sickly Sensibility;
Whose silly tears can never flow
For any pangs excepting thine;
Who turns aside from real woe,
To steep in dew thy gaudy shrine.

Now join with sable Sympathy,
With cypress crown'd, array'd in weeds,
Who heaves with thee her simple sigh,
Whose breast for every bosom bleeds;
And call thy sylvan female choir,
To mourn a swain forever gone,
Who once could glow with equal fire,
But bends not now before thy throne.

Ye genial nymphs, whose ready tears
On all occasions swiftly flow;
Whose bosoms heave with fancied fears,
With fancied flames and frenzy glow;
Say, will you mourn my absent name,
Apostate from your gentle train?

* It is hardly necessary to add, that Pylades was the companion of Orestes, and a partner in one of those friendships which, with those of Achilles and Patroclus, Nisus and Euryalus, Damon and Pythias, have been handed down to posterity as remarkable instances of attachments, which in all probability never existed beyond the imagination of the poet, or the page of an historian, or modern novelist.

An infant bard at least may claim
From you a sympathetic strain.

Adieu, fond race! a long adieu!
The hour of fate is hovering nigh;
E'en now the gulf appears in view,
Where unlamented you must lie:
Oblivion's blackening lake is seen,
Convulsed by gales you cannot weather;
Where you, and eke your gentle queen,
Alas! must perish altogether.

ANSWER TO SOME ELEGANT VERSES,

SENT BY A FRIEND TO THE AUTHOR, COMPLAINING THAT ONE OF HIS DESCRIPTIONS WAS RATHER TOO WARMLY DRAWN.

"But if any old lady, knight, priest or physician,
Should condemn me for printing a second edition;
If good Madame Squintum my work should abuse,
May I venture to give her a smack of my muse!"
—NEW BATH GUIDE.

CANDOR compels me, Becher! to commend
The verse which blends the censor with the friend.
Your strong yet just reproof extorts applause
From me, the heedless and imprudent cause.
For this wild error, which pervades my strain,
I sue for pardon—must I sue in vain? [part:
The wise sometimes from Wisdom's ways de-
Can youth then hush the dictates of the heart?
Precepts of prudence curb, but can't control
The fierce emotions of the flowing soul.
When Love's delirium haunts the glowing mind,
Limping Decorum lingers far behind:
Vainly the dotard mends her prudish pace,
Outstript and vanquish'd in the mental chase,
The young, the old, have worn the chains of love;
Let those they ne'er confined my lay reprove:
Let those whose souls contemn the pleasing power
Their censures on the hapless victim shower.
Oh! how I hate the nerveless, frigid song,
The ceaseless echo of the rhyming throng,
Whose labor'd lines in chilling numbers flow,
To paint a pang the author ne'er can know!
The artless Helicon I boast is youth;—
My lyre, the heart; my muse, the simple truth. ["taint":
Far be't from me the "virgin's mind" to
Seduction's dread is here no slight restraint.
The maid whose virgin breast is void of guile,
Whose wishes dimple in a modest smile,
Whose downcast eye disdains the wanton leer,
Firm in her virtue's strength, yet not severe—
She whom a conscious grace shall thus refine,
Will ne'er be "tainted" by a strain of mine.
But for the nymph whose premature desires
Torment her bosom with unholy fires,
No net to snare her willing heart is spread;
She would have fallen, though she ne'er had read.
For me, I fain would please the chosen few,
Whose souls, to feeling and to nature true,
Will spare the childish verse, and not destroy
The light effusions of a heedless boy.
I seek not glory from the senseless crowd;
Of fancied laurels I shall ne'er be proud;
Their warmest plaudits I would scarcely prize,
Their sneers or censures I alike despise.

ELEGY ON NEWSTEAD ABBEY.

"It is the voice of years that are gone!—they roll before me with all their deeds."—OSSIAN.

NEWSTEAD! fast-falling, once resplendent dome! [pride!*
Religion's shrine! repentant Henry's
Of warriors, monks, and dames the cloister'd tomb, [glide,
Whose pensive shades around thy ruins

Hail to thy pile! more honor'd in thy fall
Than modern mansions in their pillar'd state;
Proudly majestic frowns thy vaulted hall,
Scowling defiance on the blasts of fate.

No mail-clad serfs,† obedient to their lord,
In grim array the crimson cross demand;‡
Or gay assemble round the festive board
Their chief's retainers, an immortal band:

Else might inspiring Fancy's magic eye [time,
Retrace their progress through the lapse of
Making each ardent youth, ordain'd to die,
A votive pilgrim in Judea's clime.

But not from thee, dark pile! departs the chief;
His feudal realm in other regions lay:
In thee the wounded conscience courts relief,
Retiring from the garish blaze of day.

Yes! in thy gloomy cells and shades profound
The monk abjured a world he ne'er could view;
Or blood-stain'd guilt repenting solace found
Or innocence from stern oppression flew.

A monarch bade thee from that wild arise,
Where Sherwood's outlaws once were wont to prowl;
And Superstition's crimes, of various dyes,
Sought shelter in the priest's protecting cowl.

Where now the grass exhales a murky dew,
The humid pall of life-extinguish'd clay,
In sainted fame the sacred fathers grew,
Nor raised their pious voices but to pray.

Where now the bats their wavering wings extend, [shade,
Soon as the gloaming § spreads her waning

* Henry II. founded Newstead soon after the murder of Thomas a Becket.

† This word is used by Walter Scott, in his poem, "The Wild Huntsman," synonymous with vassal.

‡ The red cross was the badge of the crusaders.

§ As "gloaming," the Scottish word for twilight, is far more poetical, and has been recommended by many eminent literary men, particularly by Dr. Moore in his Letters to Burns, I have ventured to use it on account of its harmony.

The choir did oft their mingling vespers blend,
Or matin orisons to Mary paid.*

Years roll on years ; to ages, ages yield ;
Abbots to abbots, in a line, succeed ;
Religion's charter their protecting shield,
Till royal sacrilege their doom decreed.

One holy Henry rear'd the Gothic walls,
And bade the pious inmates rest in peace ;
Another Henry the kind gift recalls,†
And bids devotion's hallow'd echoes cease.

Vain is each threat or supplicating prayer ;
He drives them exiles from their blest abode,
To roam a dreary world in deep despair—
No friend, no home, no refuge but their God.

Hark how the hall, resounding to the strain,
Shakes with the martial music's novel din !
The heralds of a warrior's haughty reign,
High crested banners wave thy halls within.

Of changing sentinels the distant hum,
The mirth of feasts, the clang of burnish'd arms,
The braying trumpet and the hoarser drum,
Unite in concert with increased alarms.

An abbey once, a regal fortress now,
Encircled by insulting rebel powers,
War's dread machines o'erhang thy threatening brow,
And dart destruction in sulphureous showers.

Ah ! vain defence ! the hostile traitor's siege,
Though oft repulsed, by guile o'ercomes the brave ;
His thronging foes oppress the faithful liege,
Rebellion's reeking standards o'er him wave.

Not unavenged the raging baron yields :
The blood of traitors smears the purple plain ;
Unconquer'd still, his falchion there he wields,
And days of glory yet for him remain.

Still in that hour the warrior wish'd to strew
Self-gathered laurels on a self-sought grave ;
But Charles' protecting genius hither flew,
The monarch's friend, the monarch's hope, to save.

In other fields the torrent to repel ;
Trembling, she snatch'd him from the unequal strife,‡
For nobler combats, here, reserved his life,
To lead the band where godlike Falkland fell.*

From thee, poor pile ! to lawless plunder given,
While dying groans their painful requiem sound,
Far different incense now ascends to heaven,
Such victims wallow on the gory ground.

There many a pale and ruthless robber's corse,
Noisome and ghast, defiles thy sacred sod :
O'er mingling man, and horse commix'd with horse,
Corruption's heap, the savage spoilers trod.

Graves, long with rank and sighing weeds o'erspread,
Ransack'd, resign perforce their mortal mould ;
From ruffian fangs escape not e'en the dead,
Raked from repose in search of buried gold.

Hush'd is the harp, unstrung the warlike lyre,
The minstrel's palsied hand reclines in death ;
No more he strikes the quivering chords with fire,
Or sings the glories of the martial wreath.

At length the sated murderers, gorged with prey,
Retire : the clamor of the fight is o'er ;
Silence again assumes her awful sway,
And sable Horror guards the massy door.

Here Desolation holds her dreary court :
What satellites declare her dismal reign !
Shrieking their dirge, ill-omen'd birds resort,
To flit their vigils in the hoary fane.

Soon a new morn's restoring beams dispel
The clouds of anarchy from Britain's skies ;
The fierce usurper seeks his native hell,
And Nature triumphs as the tyrant dies.

With storms she welcomes his expiring groans ;
Whirlwinds, responsive, greet his laboring breath ;
Earth shudders as her caves receive his bones,
Loathing the offering of so dark a death.†

The legal ruler ‡ now resumes the helm,
He guides through gentle seas the prow of state :
Hope cheers, with wonted smiles, the peaceful realm,
And heals the bleeding wounds of wearied hate.

The gloomy tenants, Newstead ! of thy cells,
Howling, resign their violated nest ;
Again the master on his tenure dwells,
Enjoy'd, from absence, with enraptured zest.

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* The priory was dedicated to the Virgin.

† At the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII. bestowed Newstead Abbey on Sir John Byron.

‡ Lord Byron and his brother Sir William held high commands in the royal army. The former was general-in-chief in Ireland, lieutenant of the Tower, and governor to James, Duke of York, afterwards the unhappy James II., the latter had a principal share in many actions.

* Lucius Cary, Lord Viscount Falkland, the most accomplished man of his age, was killed at the battle of Newbury, charging in the ranks of Lord Byron's regiment of cavalry.

† This is an historical fact. A violent tempest occurred immediately subsequent to the death or interment of Cromwell, which occasioned many disputes between his partisans and the cavaliers ; both interpreted the circumstance into Divine interposition ; but whether as approbation or condemnation, we leave for the casuists of that age to decide. I have made such use of the occurrence as suited the subject of my poem.

‡ Charles II.

Vassals, within thy hospitable pale,
Loudly carousing, bless their lord's return ;
Culture again adorns the gladdening vale,
And matrons, once lamenting, cease to mourn.

A thousand songs on tuneful echoes float,
Unwonted foliage mantles o'er the trees ;
And hark ! the horns proclaim a mellow note,
The hunter's cry hangs lengthening on the breeze.

Beneath their coursers' hoofs the valleys shake : [chase !
What fears, what anxious hopes, attend the
The dying stag seeks refuge in the lake ;
Exulting shouts announce the finish'd race.

Ah, happy days ! too happy to endure !
Such simple sports our plain forefathers
No splendid vices glitter'd to allure ; [knew :
Their joys were many, as their cares were few.

From these descending, sons to sires succeed,
Time steals along, and Death uprears his
Another chief impels the foaming steed, [dart:
Another crowd pursue the panting hart.

Newstead ! what saddening change of scene is thine !
Thy yawning arch betokens slow decay !
The last and youngest of a noble line [sway.
Now holds thy mouldering turrets in his

Deserted now, he scans thy gray worn towers ;
Thy vaults, where dead of feudal ages sleep ;
Thy cloisters, pervious to the wintry showers ;
These, these he views, and views them but to weep.

Yet are his tears no emblem of regret :
Cherish'd affection only bids them flow.
Pride, hope, and love forbid him to forget,
But warm his bosom with impassion'd glow.

Yet he prefers thee to the gilded domes
Or gewgaw grottos of the vainly great ;
Yet lingers 'mid thy damp and mossy tombs,
Nor breathes a murmur 'gainst the will of fate.

Haply thy sun, emerging, yet may shine,
Thee to irradiate with meridian ray ;
Hours splendid as the past may still be thine,
And bless thy future as thy former day.

CHILDISH RECOLLECTIONS.

"I cannot but remember such things were,
And were most dear to me."

When slow Disease with all her host of pains,
Chills the warm tide which flows along the veins ; [wing,
When Health, affrighted, spreads her rosy
And flies with every changing gale of spring ;
Not to the aching frame alone confined,
Unyielding pains assail the drooping mind :
What grisly forms, the specter-train of woe,
Bid shuddering Nature shrink beneath the blow,
With Resignation wage relentless strife,
While Hope retires appall'd, and clings to life.
Yet less the pang when, through the tedious hour,
Remembrance sheds around her genial power,
Calls back the vanish'd days to rapture given,
When love was bliss, and beauty form'd our heaven ; [scene,
Or, dear to youth, portrays each childish
Those fairy bowers where all in turn have been. [storm
As when through clouds that pour the summer
The orb of day unveils his distant form,
Gilds with faint beams the crystal dews of rain,
And dimly twinkles o'er the watery plain ;
Thus, while the future dark and cheerless gleams, [dreams,
The sun of memory, glowing through my
Though sunk the radiance of his former blaze,
To scenes far distant points his paler rays ;
Still rules my senses with unbounded sway,
The past confounding with the present day.

Oft does my heart indulge the rising thought, [sought ;
Which still recurs, unlooked for and un-
My soul to Fancy's fond suggestion yields,
And roams romantic o'er her airy fields.
Scenes of my youth, developed, crowd to view,
To which I long have bade a last adieu !
Seats of delight, inspiring youthful themes ;
Friends lost to me for aye, except in dreams :
Some who in marble prematurely sleep,
Whose forms I now remember but to weep ;
Some who yet urge the same scholastic course
Of early science, future fame the source ;
Who, still contending in the studious race,
In quick rotation fill the senior place.
These with a thousand visions now unite,
To dazzle, though they please, my aching sight.
Ida ! blest spot where Science holds her reign,
How joyous once I join'd thy youthful train !
Bright in idea gleams thy lofty spire ;
Again I mingle with thy playful quire ;
Our tricks of mischief, every childish game,
Unchanged by time or distance, seems the same ; [trace
Through winding paths along the glade, I
The social smile of every welcome face ;
My wonted haunts, my scenes of joy and woe,
Each early boyish friend, or youthful foe.
Our feuds dissolved, but not my friendship past,
I bless the former, and forgive the last.
Hours of my youth ! when, nurtured in my breast,
To love a stranger, friendship made me blest—
Friendship, the dear peculiar bond of youth,
When every artless bosom throbs with truth ;
Untaught by wordly wisdom how to feign,
And check each impulse with prudential rein ;
When all we feel, our honest souls disclose—
In love to friends, in open hate to foes ;
No varnish'd tales the lips of youth repeat,

No dear-bought knowledge purchased by de-
Hypocrisy, the gift of lengthen'd years, [ceit.
Matured by age, the garb of prudence wears.
When now the boy is ripen'd into man,
His careful sire chalks forth some wary plan ;
Instructs his son from candor's path to shrink,
Smoothly to speak, and cautiously to think ;
Still to assent, and never to deny—
A patron's praise can well reward the lie :
And who, when Fortune's warning voice is heard,
Would lose his opening prospects for a word ?
Although against that word his heart rebel,
And truth indignant all his bosom swell.

Away with themes like this ! not mine the task [mask ;
From flattering friends to tear the hateful
Let keener bards delight in satire's sting ;
My fancy soars not on Detraction's wing ;
Once, and but once, she aim'd a deadly blow,
To hurl defiance on a secret foe ; [shame,
But when that foe, from feeling or from
The cause unknown, yet still to me the same,
Warn'd by some friendly hint, perchance retired,
With this submission all her rage expired.
From dreaded pangs that feeble foe to save,
She hush'd her young resentment, and forgave ;
Or, if my muse a pedant's portrait drew,
Pomposus' virtues are but known to few ;
I never fear'd the young usurper's nod, [rod.
And he who wields must sometimes feel the
If since on Granta's failings, known to all
Who share the converse of a college hall,
She sometimes trifled in a lighter strain,
'Tis past, and thus she will not sin again ;
Soon must her early song forever cease,
And all may rail when I shall rest in peace.

Here first remember'd be the joyous band,
Who hail'd me chief, obedient to command ;
Who join'd with me in every boyish sport—
Their first adviser, and their last resort ;
Nor shrunk beneath the upstart pedant's frown,
Or all the sable glories of his gown ;
Who, thus transplanted from his father's
Unfit to govern, ignorant of rule— [school—
Succeeded him, whom all unite to praise,
The dear preceptor of my early days :
Probus, the pride of science, and the boast,*
To Ida now, alas ! forever lost. [page,
With him, for years, we search'd the classic
And fear'd the master, though we loved the sage ;

Retired at last, his small yet peaceful seat
From learning's labor is the blest retreat.
Pomposus fills his magisterial chair ;
Pomposus governs—but, my muse, forbear :
Contempt, in silence, be the pedant's lot ;
His name and precepts be alike forgot :
No more his mention shall my verse degrade,—
To him my tribute is already paid.

High, through those elms, with hoary branches crown'd,
Fair Ida's bower adorns the landscape round :
There Science, from her favor'd seat, surveys
The vale where rural Nature claims her praise:
To her awhile resigns her youthful train,
Who move in joy, and dance along the plain ;
In scatter'd groups each favor'd haunt pursue;
Repeat old pastimes, and discover new ; [sun,
Flush'd with his rays, beneath the noontide
In rival bands between the wickets run,
Drive o'er the sward the ball with active force,
Or chase with nimble feet its rapid course.
But these with slower steps direct their way,
Where Brent's cool waves in limpid currents stray ; [treat,
While yonder few search out some green re-
And arbors shade them from the summer heat:
Others, again, a pert and lively crew,
Some rough and thoughtless stranger placed in view,
With frolic quaint their antic jests expose,
And tease the grumbling rustic as he goes ;
Nor rest with this, but many a passing fray
Tradition treasures for a future day: [fought,
"'Twas here the gather'd swains for vengeance
And here we earn'd the conquest dearly bought ;
Here have we fled before superior might,
And here renew'd the wild tumultuous fight."
While thus our souls with early passions swell,
In lingering tones resounds the distant bell ;
Th' allotted hour of daily sport is o'er,
And Learning beckons from her temple's door.
No splendid tablets grace her simple hall,
But ruder records fill the dusky wall : [name
There, deeply carved, behold ! each tyro's
Secures its owner's academic fame ; [son—
Here mingling view the names of sire and
The one long graved, the other just begun :
These shall survive alike when son and sire
Beneath one common stroke of fate expire ;
Perhaps their last memorial these alone,
Denied in death a monumental stone,
Whilst to the gale in mournful cadence wave
The sighing weeds that hide their nameless grave. [friend's,
And here my name, and many an early
Along the wall in lengthen'd line extends.
Though still our deeds amuse the youthful race,
Who tread our steps, and fill our former place,
Who young obey'd their lords in silent awe,
Whose nod commanded, and whose voice was law ;
And now, in turn, possess the reins of power,
To rule the little tyrants of an hour ;

* Dr. Drury. This most able and excellent man retired from his situation in March, 1805, after having resided thirty-five years at Harrow ; the last twenty as head-master ; an office he held with equal honor to himself and advantage to the very extensive school over which he presided. Panegyric would here be superfluous ; it would be useless to enumerate qualifications which were never doubted. A considerable contest took place between three rival candidates for the vacant chair ; of this I can only say,

Si mea cum vestris valuissent vota, Pelasgi !
Non foret ambiguus tanti certaminis hæres.

Though sometimes with the tales of ancient day,
They pass the dreary winter's eve away—
And thus our former rulers stemm'd the tide,
And thus they dealt the combat side by side;
Just in this place the mouldering walls they scaled, [avail'd:
Nor bolts nor bars against their strength
Here Probus came, the rising fray to quell,
And here he falter'd forth his last farewell;
And here one night abroad they dared to roam,
While bold Pomposus bravely stay'd at home";
While thus they speak the hour must soon arrive,
When names of these, like ours, alone survive,
Yet a few years one general wreck will whelm
The faint remembrance of our fairy realm.

Dear honest race! though now we meet no more,
One last long look on what we were before—
Our first kind greetings, and our last adieu—
Drew tears from eyes unused to weep with you.
Through splendid circles, fashion's gaudy world, [furl'd,
Where Folly's glaring standard waves unplunged to drown in noise my fond regret,
And all I sought or hoped was to forget.
Vain wish! if chance some well-remember'd face,
Some old companion of my early race,
Advanced to claim his friend with honest joy,
My eyes, my heart, proclaimed me still a boy;
The glittering scene, the fluttering groups around, [found;
Were quite forgotten when my friend was
The smiles of beauty—(for, alas! I've known
What 'tis to bend before Love's mighty throne)— [were dear,
The smiles of beauty, though those smiles
Could hardly charm me when that friend was near;
My thoughts bewilder'd in the fond surprise,
The woods of Ida danced before my eyes;
I saw the sprightly wanderers pour along,
I saw and join'd again the joyous throng:
Panting, again I traced her lofty grove,
And friendship's feelings triumph'd over love.

Yet why should I alone with such delight
Retrace the circuit of my former flight?
Is there no cause beyond the common claim
Endear'd to all in childhood's very name?
Ah! sure some stronger impulse vibrates here, [dear
Which whispers friendship will be doubly
To one who thus for kindred hearts must roam,
And seek abroad the love denied at home.
Those hearts, dear Ida, have I found in thee—
A home, a world, a paradise to me. [share
Stern Death forbade my orphan youth to
The tender guidance of a father's care.
Can rank, or e'en a guardian's name, supply
The love which glistens in a father's eye?
Or this can wealth or title's sound atone,
Made, by a parent's early loss, my own?
What brother springs a brother's love to seek?
What sister's gentle kiss has prest my cheek?
For me how dull the vacant moments rise,
To no fond bosom link'd by kindred ties!
Oft in the progress of some fleeting dream
Fraternal smiles collected round me seem;
While still the visions to my heart are prest,
The voice of love will murmur in my rest:
I hear—I wake—and in the sound rejoice;
I hear again—but, ah! no brother's voice.
A hermit, midst of crowds, I fain would stray,
Alone, though thousand pilgrims fill the way.
While these a thousand kindred wreaths entwine,
I cannot call one single blossom mine:
What then remains? in solitude to groan,
To mix in friendship, or to sigh alone.
Thus must I cling to some endearing hand,
And none more dear than Ida's social band.

Alonzo! best and dearest of my friends,
Thy name ennobles him who thus commends: [praise:
From this fond tribute thou canst gain no
The praise is his who now that tribute pays.
Oh! in the promise of thy early youth,
If hope anticipate the words of truth,
Some loftier bard shall sing thy glorious name,
To build his own upon thy deathless fame.
Friend of my heart, and foremost of the list
Of those with whom I lived supremely blest,
Oft have we drain'd the font of ancient lore;
Though drinking deeply, thirsting still the more. [done,
Yet, when confinement's lingering hour was
Our sports, our studies, and our souls were one:
Together we impell'd the flying ball;
Together waited in our tutor's hall;
Together join'd in cricket's manly toil,
Or shared the produce of the river's spoil;
Or, plunging from the green declining shore,
Our pliant limbs the buoyant billows bore;
In every element, unchanged, the same,
All, all that brothers should be, but the name.

Nor yet are you forgot, my jocund boy!
Davus, the harbinger of childish joy;
Forever foremost in the ranks of fun,
The laughing herald of the harmless pun;
Yet with a breast of such material made—
Anxious to please, of pleasing half afraid;
Candid and liberal, with a heart of steel
In danger's path, though not untaught to feel.
Still I remember, in the factious strife,
The rustic's musket aim'd against my life:
High pois'd in air the massy weapon hung,
A cry of horror burst from every tongue;
Whilst I, in combat with another foe,
Fought on, unconscious of th' impending blow;
Your arm, brave boy, arrested his career—
Forward you sprung, insensible to fear;

Disarm'd and baffled by your conquering hand,
The grovelling savage roll'd upon the sand:
An act like this, can simple thanks repay?
Or all the labors of a grateful lay?
Oh no! whene'er my breast forgets the deed,
That instant, Davus, it deserves to bleed.

Lycus! on me thy claims are justly great:
Thy milder virtues could my muse relate,
To thee alone, unrivall'd, would belong
The feeble efforts of my lengthen'd song.
Well canst thou boast, to lead in senates fit,
A Spartan firmness with Athenian wit:
Though yet in embryo these perfections shine,
Lycus! thy father's fame will soon be thine.
Where learning nurtures the superior mind,
What may we hope from genius thus refined!
When time at length matures thy growing years,
How wilt thou tower above thy fellow peers!
Prudence and sense, a spirit bold and free,
With honor's soul, united beam in thee.

Shall fair Euryalus pass by unsung?
From ancient lineage, not unworthy sprung:
What though one sad dissension bade us part?
That name is yet embalm'd within my heart;
Yet at the mention does that heart rebound,
And palpitate, responsive to the sound.
Envy dissolved our ties, and not our will:
We once were friends, I'll think we are so still.
A form unmatch'd in nature's partial mould,
A heart untainted, we in thee behold:
Yet not the senate's thunder thou shalt wield,
Nor seek for glory in the tented field;
To minds of ruder texture these be given—
Thy soul shall nearer soar its native heaven.
Haply, in polished courts might be thy seat,
But that thy tongue could never forge deceit:
The courtier's supple bow and sneering smile,
The flow of compliment, the slippery wile,
Would make that breast with indignation burn, [spurn.
And all the glittering snares to tempt thee
Domestic happiness will stamp thy fate;
Sacred to love, unclouded e'er by hate;
The world admire thee, and thy friends adore:
Ambition's slave alone would toil for more.

Now last, but nearest, of the social band,
See honest, open, generous Cleon stand,
With scarce one speck to cloud the pleasing scene,
No vice degrades that purest soul serene.
On the same day our studious race begun,
On the same day our studious race was run;
Thus side by side we pass'd our first career,
Thus side by side we strove for many a year;
At last concluded our scholastic life,
We neither conquer'd in the classic strife:
As speakers, each supports an equal name,*
And crowds allow to both a partial fame:
To soothe a youthful rival's early pride,
Though Cleon's candor would the palm divide,
Yet candor's self compels me now to own
Justice awards it to my friend alone.

Oh! friends regretted, scenes forever dear,
Remembrance hails you with her warmest tear! [urn,
Drooping, she bends o'er pensive Fancy's
To trace the hours which never can return;
Yet with the retrospection loves to dwell,
And soothe the sorrows of her last farewell!
Yet greets the triumph of my boyish mind,
As infant laurels round my head were twined,
When Probus' praise repaid my lyric song,
Or placed me higher in the studious throng;
Or when my first harangue received applause,
His sage instruction the primeval cause,
What gratitude to him my soul possest,
While hope of dawning honors fill'd my breast!
For all my humble fame, to him alone [own.
The praise is due, who made that fame my
Oh! could I soar above these feeble lays,
These young effusions of my early days,
To him my muse her noblest strain would give; [live.
The song might perish, but the theme might
Yet why for him the needless verse essay?
His honor'd name requires no vain display:
By every son of grateful Ida blest,
It finds an echo in each youthful breast:
A fame beyond the glories of the proud,
Or all the plaudits of the venal crowd.

Ida! not yet exhausted is the theme,
Nor closed the progress of my youthful dream. [strain!
How many a friend deserves the grateful
What scenes of childhood still unsung remain!
Yet let me hush this echo of the past,
This parting song, the dearest and the last;
And brood in secret o'er these hours of joy,
To me a silent and a sweet employ,
While, future hope and fear alike unknown,
I think with pleasure on the past alone:
Yes, to the past alone my heart confine,
And chase the phantom of what once was mine.

Ida! still o'er thy hills in joy preside,
And proudly steer through time's eventful tide,
Still may thy blooming sons thy name revere;
Smile in thy bower, but quit thee with a tear—
That tear, perhaps, the fondest which will flow
O'er their last scene of happiness below.
Tell me, ye hoary few, who glide along,
The feeble veterans of some former throng,
Whose friends, like autumn leaves by tempests whirl'd,
Are swept forever from this busy world;
Revolve the fleeting moments of your youth,
While Care as yet withheld her venom'd tooth;

* This alludes to the public speeches delivered at the school where the author was educated.

Say if remembrance days like these endears
Beyond the rapture of succeeding years?
Say, can ambition's fever'd dream bestow
So sweet a balm to soothe your hours of woe?
Can treasures, hoarded for some thankless son,
Can royal smiles, or wreathes by slaughter won,
Can stars or ermine, man's maturer toys [won,
(For glittering baubles are not left to boys),
Recall one scene so much beloved to view
As those where Youth her garland twined for you?
Ah, no! amidst the calmy gloom of age [you?
You turn with faltering hand life's varied page;
Peruse the record of your days on earth,
Unsullied only where it marks your birth; [leaf,
Still lingering pause above each chequer'd
And blot with tears the sable lines of grief;
Where Passion o'er the theme her mantle threw,
Or weeping Virtue sigh'd a faint adieu; [threw,
But bless the scroll which fairer words adorn,
Traced by the rosy finger of the morn;
When Friendship bow'd before the shrine of Truth, [youth.*
And Love, without his pinion, smiled on

ANSWER TO A BEAUTIFUL POEM.

ENTITLED "THE COMMON LOT." †

Montgomery! true, the common lot
Of mortals lies in Lethe's wave;
Yet some shall never be forgot,
Some shall exist beyond the grave.

"Unknown the region of his birth,"
The hero rolls the tide of war: ‡
Yet not unknown his partial worth,
Which glares a meteor from afar.

His joy or grief, his weal or woe,
Perchance may 'scape the page of fame;
Yet nations now unborn will know
The record of his deathless name.

The patriot's and the poet's frame
Must share the common tomb of all:
Their glory will not sleep the same;
That will arise, though empires fall.

The lustre of a beauty's eye
Assumes the ghastly stare of death:
The fair, the brave, the good must die,
And sink the yawning grave beneath.

Once more the speaking eye revives,
Still beaming through the lover's strain;
For Petrarch's Laura still survives:
She died, but ne'er will die again.

The rolling seasons pass away,
And Time, untiring, waves his wing:
Whilst honor's laurels ne'er decay,
But bloom in fresh, unfading spring.

All, all must sleep in grim repose,
Collected in the silent tomb:

The old and young, with friends and foes,
Festering alike in shrouds consume.

The mouldering marble lasts its day,
Yet falls at length a useless fane;
To ruin's ruthless pangs a prey,
The wrecks of pillar'd pride remain.

What, though the sculpture be destroy'd,
From dark oblivion meant to guard;
A bright renown shall be enjoy'd
By those whose virtues claim reward.

Then do not say the common lot
Of all lies deep in Lethe's wave:
Some few who ne'er will be forgot
Shall burst the bondage of the grave.

TO A LADY

WHO PRESENTED THE AUTHOR WITH THE VELVET BAND WHICH BOUND HER TRESSES.

This Band, which bound thy yellow hair,
Is mine, sweet girl! thy pledge of love;
It claims my warmest, dearest care,
Like relics left of saints above.

Oh! I will wear it next my heart;
'Twill bind my soul in bonds to thee:
From me again 'twill ne'er depart,
But mingle in the grave with me.

The dew I gather from thy lip
Is not so dear to me as this;
That I but for a moment sip,
And bānquet on a transient bliss:

This will recall each youthful scene,
E'en when our lives are on the wane;
The leaves of Love will still be green
When Memory bids them bud again.

Oh! little lock of golden hue,
In gently waving ringlet curl'd,
By the dear head on which you grew,
I would not lose you for a world.

Not though a thousand more adorn
The polish'd brow where once you shone,
Like rays which gild a cloudless morn,
Beneath Columbia's fervid zone.

LINES

ADDRESSED TO THE REV. J. T. BECHER, ON HIS ADVISING THE AUTHOR TO MIX MORE WITH SOCIETY.

Dear Becher, you tell me to mix with man-
I cannot deny such a precept is wise; [kind:
But retirement accords with the tone of my mind:
I will not descend to a world I despise.

Did the senate or camp my exertions require,
Ambition might prompt me at once to go forth;
When infancy's years of probation expire,
Perchance I may strive to distinguish my birth.

The fire in the cavern of Etna conceal'd,
Still mantles unseen in its secret recess:
At length in a volume terrific reveal'd, [repress.
No torrent can quench it, no bounds can

Oh! thus the desire in my bosom for fame,
Bids me live but to hope for posterity's praise.

*"L'Amitie est l'Amour sans ailes" is a French proverb.

† Written by James Montgomery, author of "The Wanderer in Switzerland," etc.

‡ No particular hero is here alluded to. The exploits of Bayard, Nemours, Edward the Black Prince, and in more modern times the fame of Marlborough, Frederick the Great, Count Saxe, Charles of Sweden, etc., are familiar to every historical reader; but the exact places of their birth are known to a very small proportion of their admirers.

Could I soar with the phœnix on pinions of flame,
With him I would wish to expire in the blaze.
For the life of a Fox, of a Chatham the death,
What censure, what danger, what woe would I brave! [breath:
Their lives did not end when they yielded their
Their glory illumines the gloom of their grave.

Yet why should I mingle in Fashion's full herd?
Why crouch to her leaders, or cringe to her rules? [absurd?
Why bend to the proud, or applaud the
Why search for delight in the friendship of fools?

I have tasted the sweets and the bitters of love;
In friendship I early was taught to believe;
My passion the matrons of prudence reprove:
I have found that a friend may profess, yet deceive.

To me what is wealth?—it may pass in an hour, [frown:
If tyrants prevail, or if Fortune should
To me what is title?—the phantom of power;
To me what is fashion?—I seek but renown.

Deceit is a stranger as yet to my soul;
I still am unpractised to varnish the truth:
Then why should I live in a hateful control?
Why waste upon folly the days of my youth?

REMEMBRANCE.

'Tis done!—I saw it in my dreams;
No more with hope the future beams;
My days of happiness are few:
Chill'd by misfortune's wintry blast,
My dawn of life is overcast:
Love, Hope, and Joy, alike adieu!
Would I could add Remembrance too!

THE DEATH OF CALMAR AND ORLA.*

AN IMITATION OF MACPHERSON'S OSSIAN.

Dear are the days of youth! Age dwells on their remembrance through the mist of time. In the twilight he recalls the sunny hours of morn. He lifts his spear with trembling hand. "Not thus feebly did I raise the steel before my fathers!" Past is the race of heroes. But their fame rises on the harp; their souls ride on the wings of the wind; they hear the sound through the sighs of the storm, and rejoice in their hall of clouds! Such is Calmar. The gray stone marks his narrow house. He looks down from eddying tempests: he rolls his form in the whirlwind, and hovers on the blast of the mountain.

In Morven dwelt the chief; a beam of war to Fingal. His steps in the field were marked in blood. Lochlin's sons had fled before his angry spear; but mild was the eye of Calmar; soft was the flow of his yellow locks: they streamed like the meteor of the night. No maid was the sigh of his soul: his thoughts were given to friendship,—to dark-haired Orla, destroyer of heroes! Equal were their swords in battle: but fierce was the pride of Orla:—gentle alone to Calmar. Together they dwelt in the cave of Oithona.

From Lochlin, Swaran bounded o'er the blue waves. Erin's sons fell beneath his might. Fingal roused his chiefs to combat. Their ships cover the ocean. Their hosts throng on the green hills. They come to the aid of Erin.

Night rose in clouds. Darkness veils the armies: but the blazing oaks gleam through the valley. The sons of Lochlin slept: their dreams were of blood. They lift the spear in thought, and Fingal flies. Not so the host of Morven. To watch was the post of Orla. Calmar stood by his side. Their spears were in their hands. Fingal called his chiefs: they stood around. The king was in the midst. Gray was his locks, but strong was the arm of the king. Age withered not his powers. "Sons of Morven," said the hero, "to-morrow we meet the foe. But where is Cuthullin, the shield of Erin? He rests in the halls of Tura; he knows not of our coming. Who will speed through Lochlin to the hero, and call the chief to arms. The path is by the swords of foes; but many are my heroes. They are thunderbolts of war. Speak, ye chiefs! Who will arise?"

"Son of Trenmor! mine be the deed," said dark-haired Orla, "and mine alone. What is death to me? I love the sleep of the mighty, but little is the danger. The sons of Lochlin dream. I will seek car-borne Cuthullin. If I fall, raise the song of bards; and lay me by the stream of Lubar."—"And shalt thou fall alone?" said fair-haired Calmar. "Will thou leave thy friend afar? Chief of Oithona! not feeble is my arm in fight. Could I see thee die, and not lift the spear? No, Orla! ours has been the chase of the roe-buck, and the feast of shells: ours be the path of danger: ours has been the cave of Oithona; ours be the narrow dwelling on the banks of Lubar." 'Calmar," said the chief of Oithona, "why should thy yellow locks be darkened in the dust of Erin? Let me fall alone. My father dwells in his hall of air: he will rejoice in his boy; but the blue-eyed Mora spreads the feast for her son in Morven. She listens to the steps of the hunter on the heath, and thinks it is the tread of Calmar. Let her not say, 'Calmar has fallen by the steel of Lochlin: he died with gloomy Orla, the chief of the dark brow.' Why should tears dim the azure eyes of Mora? Why should her voice curse Orla, the destroyer of Calmar? Live, Calmar! live to raise my stone of moss; live to revenge me in the blood of Lochlin. Join the song of bards above my grave. Sweet will be the song of death to Orla, from the voice of Calmar. My ghost shall smile on the notes of praise." "Orla," said the son of Mora, "could I raise the song of death to my friend? Could I give his fame to the winds? No, my heart would speak in sighs: faint and broken are the sounds of sorrow. Orla! our souls shall hear the song together. One cloud shall be ours on high; the bards will mingle the names of Orla and Calmar."

They quit the circle of the chiefs. Their steps are to the host of Lochlin. The dying blaze of oak dim twinkles through the night. The northern star points the path to Tara. Swaran, the king, rests on his lonely hill. Here the troops are mixed; they frown in sleep; their shields beneath their heads. Their swords gleam at distance in heaps. The fires are faint; their embers fail in smoke. All is hushed; but the gale sighs on the rocks above. Lightly wheel the heroes through the slumbering band. Half the journey is past, when Mathon, resting on his shield, meets the eye of Orla. It rolls in flame, and glistens through the shade. His spear is raised on high. "Why dost thou bend thy brow, chief of Oithona?" said fair-haired Calmar; "we are in the midst of foes. Is this a time for delay?" "It is a time for vengeance," said Orla of the gloomy brow. "Mathon of Lochlin sleeps! seest thou his spear? Its point is dim with the gore of my father. The blood of Mathon shall reek on mine; but shall I slay him sleeping, son of Mora? No! he shall feel his wound; my fame shall not soar on the blood of slumber. Rise, Mathon, rise! The son of Conna calls; thy life is his: rise to combat." Mathon starts from sleep; but did he rise alone? No: the gathering chiefs bound on the plain. "Fly! Calmar, fly!" said dark-haired Orla. "Mathon is mine. I shall die in joy; but Lochlin crowds around. Fly through the shade of night!" Orla turns. The helm of Mathon is cleft; his shield falls from his arm: he shudders in his blood. He rolls by the side of the blazing oak. Strumon sees him fall: his wrath rises: his weapon glitters on the head of Orla: but a spear pierced his eye. His brain gushes through the wound, and foams on the spear of Calmar. As rolls the waves of the ocean on two mighty

* This story, though considerably varied in the catastrophe, is taken from "Nisus and Euryalus," of which episode a translation is already given.

dark; of the north, so pour the men of Lochlin on the chiefs. As, breaking the surge in foam, proudly steer the barks of the north, so rise the chiefs of Morven on the scattered crests of Lochlin. The din of arms came to the ear of Fingal. He strikes his shield; his sons throng around; the people pour along the heath. Ryno bounds in joy. Ossian stalks in his arms. Oscar shakes the spear. The eagle wing of Fillan floats on the wind. Dreadful is the clang of death! many are the widows of Lochlin! Morven prevails in its strength.

Morn glimmers on the hills: no living foe is seen: but the sleepers are many; grim they lie on Erin. The breeze of ocean lifts their locks; yet they do not awake. The hawks scream above their prey.

Whose yellow locks wave o'er the breast of a chief? Bright as the gold of the stranger, they mingle with the dark hair of his friend. 'Tis Calmar; he lies on the bosom of Orla. Theirs is one stream of blood. Fierce is the look of the gloomy Orla. He breathes not; but his eye is still a flame. It glares in death unclosed. His hand is grasped in Calmar's; but Calmar lives! he lives, though low. "Rise," said the king, "rise, son of Mora: 'tis mine to heal the wounds of heroes. Calmar may yet bound on the hills of Morven."

"Never more shall Calmar chase the deer of Morven with Orla," said the hero. "What were the chase to me alone? Who shall share the spoils of battle with Calmar? Orla is at rest! Rough was thy soul, Orla! yet soft to me as the dew of morn. It glared on others in lightning; to me a silver beam of night. Bear my sword to blue-eyed Mora; let it hang in my empty hall. It is not pure from blood; but it could not save Orla. Lay me with my friend. Raise the song when I am dark!"

They are laid by the stream of Lubar. Four grey stones mark the dwelling of Orla and Calmar. When Swaran was bound, our sails rose on the blue waves. The winds gave our barks to Morven:—the bards raised the song.

"What form rises on the roar of clouds? Whose dark ghost gleams on the red streams of tempests? His voice rolls on the thunder. 'Tis Orla, the brown chief of Othona. He was unmatched in war. Peace to thy soul, Orla! thy fame will not perish. Nor thine, Calmar! Lovely wast thou, son of blue-eyed Mora; but not harmless was thy sword. It hangs in thy cave. The ghosts of Lochlin shriek around its steel. Hear thy praise, Calmar! It dwells on the voice of the mighty. Thy name shakes on the echoes of Morven. Then raise thy fair locks, son of Mora. Spread them on the arch of the rainbow; and smile through the tears of the storm."

L'AMITIE EST L'AMOUR SANS AILES.

Why should my anxious breast repine,
Because my youth is fled?
Days of delight may still be mine;
Affection is not dead.
In tracing back the years of youth,
One firm record, one lasting truth,
Celestial consolation brings;
Bear it, ye breezes, to the seat,
Where first my heart responsive beat,—
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Through few, but deeply chequer'd years,
What moments have been mine!
Now half obscured by clouds of tears,
Now bright in rays divine;
Howe'er my future doom be cast,
My soul, enraptured with the past,
To one idea fondly clings;
Friendship! that thought is all thine own,
Worth worlds of bliss, that thought alone—
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Where yonder yew-trees lightly wave
Their branches on the gale,
Unheeded heaves a simple grave,
Which tells the common tale;
Round this unconscious schoolboys stray,
Till the dull knell of childish play
From yonder studious mansion rings;
But here whene'er my footsteps move,
My silent tears too plainly prove
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Oh, Love! before thy glowing shrine
My early vows were paid;
My hopes, my dreams, my heart was thine,
But these are now decay'd;
For thine are pinions like the wind.
No trace of thee remains behind,
Except, alas! thy jealous stings.
Away, away! delusive power,
Thou shalt not haunt my coming hour;
Unless, indeed, without thy wings.

Seat of my youth! thy distant spire
Recalls each scene of joy:
My bosom glows with former fire,—
In mind again a boy.
Thy grove of elms, thy verdant hill,
Thy very path delights me still,
Each flower a double fragrance flings;
Again, as once, in converse gay,
Each dear associate seems to say,
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

My Lycus! wherefore dost thou weep?
Thy falling tears restrain;
Affection for a time may sleep,
But, oh, 'twill wake again.
Think, think, my friend, when next we meet
Our long-wish'd interview, how sweet!
From this my hope of rapture springs;
While youthful hearts thus fondly swell,
Absence, my friend, can only tell,
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

In one, and one alone deceived,
Did I my error mourn?
No—from oppressive bonds relieved,
I left the wretch to scorn.
I turn'd to those my childhood knew,
With feelings warm, with bosoms true,
Twined with my heart's according strings,
And till those vital chords shall break,
For none but these my breast shall wake
Friendship, the power deprived of wings!

Ye few! my soul, my life is yours,
My memory and my hope;
Your worth a lasting love insures,
Unfetter'd in its scope;
From smooth deceit and terror sprung,
With aspect fair and honey'd tongue,
Let Adulation wait on kings;
With joy elate, by snares beset,
We, we, my friends, can ne'er forget
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

Fictions and dreams inspire the bard
Who rolls the epic song;
Friendship and truth be my reward—
To me no bays belong;
If laurell'd Fame but dwells with lies,
Me the enchantress ever flies,
Whose heart and not whose fancy sings.
Simple and young, I dare not feign;

Mine be the rude yet heartfelt strain,
"Friendship is Love without his wings!"

THE PRAYER OF NATURE.

FATHER of Light! great God of Heaven!
Hear'st thou the accents of despair?
Can guilt like man's be e'er forgiven?
Can vice atone for crimes by prayer?

Father of Light, on thee I call!
Thou seest my soul is dark within;
Thou who canst mark the sparrow's fall,
Avert from me the death of sin.

No shrine I seek, to sects unknown;
Oh, point to me the path of truth!
Thy dread omnipotence I own:
Spare, yet amend, the faults of youth.

Let bigots rear a gloomy fane,
Let superstition hail the pile,
Let priests, to spread their sable reign,
With tales of mystic rites beguile.

Shall man confine his Maker's sway
To Gothic domes of mouldering stone?
Thy temple is the face of day;
Earth, ocean, heaven, thy boundless throne.

Shall man condemn his race to hell,
Unless they bend in pompous form?
Tell us that all, for one who fell,
Must perish in the mingling storm?

Shall each pretend to reach the skies,
Yet doom his brother to expire,
Whose soul a different hope supplies,
Or doctrines less severe inspire?

Shall these, by creeds they can't expound,
Prepare a fancied bliss or woe?
Shall reptiles, groveling on the ground,
Their great Creator's purpose know?

Shall those who live for self alone,
Whose years float on in daily crime—
Shall they by Faith for guilt atone,
And live beyond the bounds of Time?

Father! no prophet's laws I seek—
Thy laws in Nature's works appear;
I own myself corrupt and weak,
Yet will I pray, for thou wilt hear!

Thou, who canst guide the wandering star
Through trackless realms of æther's space;
Who calms the elemental war,
Whose hand from pole to pole I trace:

Thou, who in wisdom placed me here,
Who, when thou wilt, canst take me hence,
Ah! whilst I tread this earthly sphere,
Extend to me thy wide defence.

To thee, my God, to thee I call!
Whatever weal or woe betide,
By thy command I rise or fall,
In thy protection I confide.

If, when this dust to dust's restored,
My soul shall float on airy wing,
How shall thy glorious name adored
Inspire her feeble voice to sing!

But, if this fleeting spirit share
With clay the grave's eternal bed,
While life yet throbs I raise my prayer,
Though doom'd no more to quit the dead.

To thee I breathe my humble strain,
Grateful for all thy mercies past,
And hope, my God, to thee again
This erring life may fly at last.

TO EDWARD NOEL LONG, ESQ.

"Nil ego contulerim jocundo sanus amico."—HOR.

DEAR LONG, in this sequester'd scene,
While all around in slumber lie,
The joyous days which ours have been,
Come rolling fresh on Fancy's eye;
Thus if amidst the gathering storm,
While clouds the darken'd noon deform,
Yon heaven assumes a varied glow,
I hail the sky's celestial bow,
Which spreads the sign of future peace,
And bids the war of tempests cease.
Ah! though the present brings but pain,
I think those days may come again;
Or if, in melancholy mood,
Some lurking envious fear intrude,
To check my bosom's fondest thought,
And interrupt the golden dream,
I crush the fiend with malice fraught,
And still indulge my wonted theme.
Although we ne'er again can trace,
In Granta's vale, the pedant's lore;
Nor through the groves of Ida chase
Our raptured visions as before,
Though Youth has flown on rosy pinion,
And Manhood claims his stern dominion,
Age will not every hope destroy,
But yield some hours of sober joy.

Yes, I will hope that Time's broad wing
Will shed around some dews of spring:
But if his scythe must sweep the flowers
Which bloom among the fairy bowers,
Where smiling Youth delights to dwell,
And hearts with early rapture swell;
If frowning Age, with cold control,
Confines the current of the soul,
Congeals the tear of Pity's eye,
Or checks the sympathetic sigh,
Or hears unmoved misfortune's groan,
And bids me feel for self alone;
Oh! may my bosom never learn
To soothe its wonted heedless flow,
Still, still despise the censor stern,
But ne'er forget another's woe.
Yes, as you knew me in the days
O'er which Remembrance yet delays,
Still may I rove, untutor'd, wild,
And even in age at heart a child.

Though now on airy visions borne,
To you my soul is still the same.
Oft has it been my fate to mourn,
And all my former days are tame.
But, hence! ye hours of sable hue!
Your frowns are gone, my sorrows o'er:
By every bliss my childhood knew,
I'll think upon your shade no more.
Thus, when the whirlwind's rage is past,
And caves their sullen roar enclose,

Ye heed no more the wintry blast,
When lull'd by zephyr to repose.
Full often has my infant Muse
Attuned to love her languid lyre;
But now without a theme to choose,
The strains in stolen sighs expire.
My youthful nymphs, alas! are flown;
E— is a wife, and C— a mother,
And Carolina sighs alone,
And Mary's given to another;
And Cora's eye, which roll'd on me,
Can now no more my love recall:
In truth, dear LONG, 'twas time to flee;
For Cora's eye will shine on all.
And though the sun, with genial rays,
His beams alike to all displays,
And every lady's eye's a *sun*,
These last should be confined to one.
The soul's meridian don't become her
Whose sun displays a general *summer!*
Thus faint is every former flame,
And passion's self is now a name.
As, when the ebbing flames are low,
The aid which once improved their light,
And bade them burn with fiercer glow,
Now quenches all their sparks in night;
Thus has it been with passion's fires,
As many a boy and girl remembers,
While all the force of love expires,
Extinguish'd with the dying embers.
But now, dear LONG, 'tis midnight's noon,
And clouds obscure the watery moon,
Whose beauties I shall not rehearse,
Described in every stripling's verse;
For why should I the path go o'er,
Which every bard has trod before?
Yet ere yon silver lamp of night
Has thrice perform'd her stated round,
Has thrice retraced her path of light,
And chased away the gloom profound,
I trust that we, my gentle friend,
Shall see her rolling orbit wend
Above the dear-loved peaceful seat,
Which once contain'd our youth's retreat;
And then with those our childhood knew
We'll mingle in the festive crew;
While many a tale of former day
Shall wing the laughing hours away;
And all the flow of souls shall pour
The sacred intellectual shower,
Nor cease till Luna's waning horn
Scarce glimmers through the mist of morn.

TO A LADY.

OH! had my fate been join'd with thine,
As once this pledge appear'd a token,
These follies had not then been mine,
For then my peace had not been broken.

To thee these early faults I owe,
To thee, the wise and old reproving:
They know my sins, but do not know
'Twas thine to break the bonds of loving.

For once my soul, like thine, was pure,
And all its rising fires could smother;
But now thy vows no more endure,
Bestow'd by thee upon another;

Perhaps his peace I could destroy,
And spoil the blisses that await him;
Yet let my rival smile in joy,
For thy dear sake I cannot hate him.

Ah! since thy angel form is gone,
My heart no more can rest with any;
But what it sought in thee alone,
Attempts, alas! to find in many.

Then fare thee well, deceitful maid!
'Twere vain and fruitless to regret thee;
Nor hope nor memory yield their aid,
But pride may teach me to forget thee.

Yet all this giddy waste of years,
This tiresome round of palling pleasures,
These varied loves, these matron's fears,
These thoughtless strains to passion's measures—

If thou wert mine, had all been hush'd;—
This cheek, now pale from early riot,
With passion's hectic ne'er had flush'd,
But bloom'd in calm domestic quiet.

Yes, once the rural scene was sweet,
For Nature seem'd to smile before thee;
And once my breast abhorr'd deceit,—
For then it beat but to adore thee.

But now I seek for other joys:
To think would drive my soul to madness;
In thoughtless throngs and empty noise
I conquer half my bosom's sadness.

Yet, even in these a thought will steal
In spite of every vain endeavor—
And fiends might pity what I feel—
To know that thou art lost forever.

I WOULD I WERE A CARELESS CHILD.

I WOULD I were a careless child,
Still dwelling in my Highland cave,
Or roaming through the dusky wild,
Or bounding o'er the dark blue wave.
The cumbrous pomp of Saxon pride*
Accords not with the free-born soul,
Which loves the mountain's craggy side,
And seeks the rocks where billows roll.

Fortune! take back these cultured lands,
Take back this name of splendid sound!
I hate the touch of servile hands,
I hate the slaves that cringe around.
Place me among the rocks I love,
Which sound to ocean's wildest roar;
I ask but this—again to rove
Through scenes my youth hath known before.

Few are my years, and yet I feel
The world was ne'er designed for me:
Ah! why do darkening shades conceal
The hour when man must cease to be?
Once I beheld a splendid dream,
A visionary scene of bliss!
Truth!—wherefore did thy hated beam
Awake me to a world like this?

I loved—but those I loved are gone;
Had friends—my early friends are fled:
How cheerless feels the heart alone,

* Sassenach, or Saxon, a Gaelic word, signifying either Lowland or English.

When all its former hopes are dead!
Though gay companions o'er the bowl
Dispel awhile the sense of ill;
Though pleasure stirs the maddening soul,
The heart—the heart—is lonely still.

How dull! to hear the voice of those [power,
Whom rank or chance, whom wealth or
Have made, though neither friends nor foes,
Associates of the festive hour.
Give me again a faithful few,
In years and feelings still the same,
And I will fly the midnight crew,
Where boisterous joy is but a name.

And woman, lovely woman! thou,
My hope, my comforter, my all!
How cold must be my bosom now,
When e'en thy smiles begin to pall!
Without a sigh would I resign
This busy scene of splendid woe,
To make that calm contentment mine,
Which virtue knows, or seems to know.

Fain would I fly the haunts of men—
I seek to shun, not hate mankind;
My breast requires the sullen glen,
Whose gloom may suit a darken'd mind.
Oh! that to me the wings were given
Which bear the turtle to her nest!
Then would I cleave the vault of heaven,
To flee away and be at rest.*

WHEN I ROVED A YOUNG HIGHLANDER.

When I roved a young Highlander o'er the
dark heath, [of snow,†
And climb'd thy steep summit, O Morven,
To gaze on the torrent that thunder'd be-
neath, [below,‡
Or the mist of the tempest that gather'd
Untutor'd by science, a stranger to fear, [grew,
And rude as the rocks where my infancy
No feeling, save one, to my bosom was dear:
Need I say, my sweet Mary, 'twas centred
in you?

Yet it could not be love, for I knew not the
name, [child?
What passion can dwell in the heart of a
But still I perceive an emotion the same [wild:
As I felt, when a boy, on the crag-cover'd
One image alone on my bosom impress'd,
I loved my bleak regions, nor panted for
new; [bless'd;
And few were my wants, for my wishes were
And pure were my thoughts, for my soul
was with you.

I arose with the dawn; with my dog as my
guide, [along;
From mountain to mountain I bounded
I breasted the billows of Dee's rushing tide,*
And heard at a distance the Highlander's
song:
At eve, on my heath-cover'd couch of repose
No dreams, save of Mary, were spread to
my view;
And warm to the skies my devotions arose,
For the first of my prayers was a blessing
on you.

I left my bleak home, and my visions are gone:
The mountains are vanish'd, my youth is no
more;
As the last of my race, I must wither alone,
And delight but in days I have witness'd
before: [lot:
Ah! splendor has raised but embitter'd my
More dear were the scenes which my in-
fancy knew: [are not forgot;
Though my hopes may have fail'd, yet they
Though cold is my heart, still it lingers with
you.

When I see some dark hill point its crest to
the sky, [leen,†
I think of the rocks that o'ershadow Colb-
When I see the soft blue of a love-speaking
eye, [scene:
I think of those eyes that endear'd the rude
When, haply, some light-waving locks I be-
hold,
That faintly resemble my Mary's in hue,
I think on the long flowing ringlets of gold,
The locks that were sacred to beauty and
you.

Yet the day may arrive when the mountains
once more [snow:
Shall rise to my sight in their mantles of
But while these soar above me, unchanged as
before,
Will Mary be there to receive me?—ah, no!
Adieu, then, ye hills, where my childhood was
bred! [adieu!
Thou sweet-flowing Dee, to thy waters
No home in the forest shall shelter my head—
Ah! Mary, what home could be mine but
with you?

TO GEORGE, EARL DELAWARR.

Oh! yes, I will own we were dear to each
other, [ing, are true;
The friendships of childhood, though fleet-
The love which you felt was the love of a
brother,
Nor less the affection I cherish'd for you.

But friendship can vary her gentle dominion;
The attachment of years in a moment ex-
pires; [pinion,
Like Love, too, she moves on a swift-waving

* "And I said, Oh, that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away and be at rest."—Psalm lv. 6. This verse also constitutes a part of the most beautiful anthem in our language.

† Morven, a lofty mountain in Aberdeenshire. "Gormal of snow" is an expression frequently to be found in Ossian.

‡ This will not appear extraordinary to those who have been accustomed to the mountains. It is by no means uncommon, on attaining the top of Ben-e-vis, Ben-y-bourd, etc., to perceive, between the summit and the valley, clouds pouring down rain, and occasionally accompanied by lightning, while the spectator literally looks down upon the storm, perfectly secure from its effects.

* "Breasting the lofty surge."—SHAKSPEARE. The Dee is a beautiful river, which rises near Mar Lodge, and falls into the sea at New Aberdeen.

† Colbleen is a mountain near the verge of the Highlands, not far from the ruins of Dee Castle.

But glows not, like Love, with unquenchable fires.
Full oft have we wander'd through Ida together, [allow:
And blest were the scenes of our youth, I
In the spring of our life, how serene is the weather! [now.
But winter's rude tempests are gathering
No more with affection shall memory blending,
The wonted delights of our childhood retrace: [unbending
When pride steels the bosom, the heart is
And what would be justice appears a disgrace.
However, dear George, for I still must esteem you;
The few whom I love I can never upbraid;
The chance which is lost may in future redeem you, [made.
Repentance will cancel the vow you have
I will not complain, and though chill'd is affection, [live:
With me no corroding resentment shall
My bosom is calm'd by the simple reflection,
That both may be wrong, and that both should forgive.
You knew that my soul, that my heart, my existence, [own;
If danger demanded, were wholly your
You knew me unalter'd by years or by distance,
Devoted to love and to friendship alone.
You know,—but away with the vain retrospection!
The bond of affection no longer endures;
Too late you may droop o'er the fond recollection, [yours.
And sigh for the friend who was formerly
For the present we part—I will hope not forever;
For time and regret will restore you at last:
To forget our dissension we both should endeavor,
I ask no atonement, but days like the past.

TO THE EARL OF CLARE.

"Tu semper amoris
Sis memor, et cari comitis ne abscedat imago."
VAL. FLAC.

FRIEND of my youth! when young we roved,
Like striplings, mutually beloved,
With friendship's purest glow,
The bliss which wing'd those rosy hours
Was such as pleasure seldom showers
On mortals here below.
The recollection seems alone
Dearer than all the joys I've known,
When distant far from you:
Though pain, 'tis still a pleasing pain,
To trace those days and hours again,
And sigh again, adieu!
My pensive memory lingers o'er
Those scenes to be enjoy'd no more,
Those scenes regretted ever:
The measure of our youth is full,
Life's evening dream is dark and dull,
And we may meet—ah! never!
As when one parent spring supplies
Two streams which from one fountain rise,
Together join'd in vain;
How soon, diverging from their course,
Each, murmuring, seeks another course
Till mingled in the main!
Our vital streams of weal or woe,
Though near, alas! distinctly flow,
Nor mingle as before;
Now swift or slow, now black or clear,
Till death's unfathom'd gulf appear,
And both shall quit the shore.
Our souls, my friend! which once supplied
One wish, nor breathed a thought beside,
Now flow in different channels:
Disdaining humbler rural sports,
'Tis yours to mix in polish'd courts,
And shine in fashion's annals:
'Tis mine to waste on love my time,
Or vent my reveries in rhyme,
Without the aid of reason;
For sense and reason (critics know it)
Have quitted every amorous poet,
Nor left a thought to seize on.
Poor Little! sweet melodious bard!*
Of late esteem'd it monstrous hard,
That he, who sang before all—
He who the lore of love expanded—
By dire reviewers should be branded
As void of wit and moral. †
And yet, while Beauty's praise is thine,
Harmonious favorite of the Nine!
Repine not at thy lot.
Thy soothing lays may still be read,
When Persecution's arm is dead,
And critics are forgot.
Still I must yield those worthies merit
Who chasten, with unsparing spirit,
Bad rhymes and those who write them;
And though myself may be the next
By criticism to be vext,
I really will not fight them. ‡
Perhaps they would do quite as well
To break the rudely sounding shell
Of such a young beginner;
He who offends at pert nineteen,
Ere thirty may become, I ween,
A very harden'd sinner.
Now, Clare, I must return to you;
And, sure, apologies are due:
Accept, then, my concession.
In truth, dear Clare, in fancy's flight
I soar along from left to right;
My muse admires digression.

* Little was a nom de plume of Tom Moore's.
† These lines were written soon after the appearance of a severe critique in a northern review on a new publication of the British Anacreon.
‡ Alluding to a hostile meeting between Moore and Jeffrey at Chalk Farm. (EDIT.)

I think I said 'twould be your fate
To add one star to royal state ;—
May regal smiles attend you !
And should a noble monarch reign,
You will not seek his smiles in vain,
If worth can recommend you.

Yet since in danger courts abound,
Where specious rivals glitter round,
From snares may saints preserve you ;
And grant your love or friendship ne'er
From any claim a kindred care,
But those who best deserve you !

Not for a moment may you stray
From truth's secure, unerring way !
May no delights decoy !
O'er roses may your footsteps move,
Your smiles be ever smiles of love,
Your tears be tears of joy !

Oh ! if you wish that happiness
Your coming days and years may bless,
And virtues crown your brow ;
Be still as you were wont to be,
Spotless as you've been known to me,—
Be still as you are now.

And though some trifling share of praise,
To cheer my last declining days,
To me were doubly dear,
Whilst blessing your beloved name,
I'd waive at once a *poet's* fame,
To prove a *prophet* here.

LINES WRITTEN BENEATH AN ELM IN THE CHURCHYARD OF HARROW.

Spot of my youth! whose hoary branches sigh,
Swept by the breeze that fans thy cloudless sky ;
Where now alone I muse, who oft have trod,
With those I loved, thy soft and verdant sod ;
With those who, scatter'd far, perchance de
plore,
Like me, the happy scenes they knew before
Oh ! as I trace again thy winding hill,
Mine eyes admire, my heart adores thee still
Thou drooping Elm ! beneath whose bough
I lay,
And frequent mused the twilight hours away,
Where, as they once were wont, my limbs re
cline, [were mine
But ah ! without the thoughts which then
How do thy branches, moaning to the blast,
Invite the bosom to recall the past,
And seem to whisper, as they gently swell,
"Take, while thou canst, a lingering, last
farewell !"

When fate shall chill, at length, this fever'd
breast,
And calm its cares and passions into rest,
Oft have I thought, 'twould soothe my dying
hour,—
If aught may soothe when life resigns her
power,— [cell
To know some humble grave, some narrow
Would hide my bosom where it loved to dwell
With this fond dream, methinks, 'twere swee
to die—
And here it linger'd, here my heart might lie
Here might I sleep where all my hopes arose
Scene of my youth, and couch of my repose
Forever stretch'd beneath this mantling
shade, [play'd
Press'd by the turf where once my childhood
Wrapt by the soil that veils the spot I loved,
Mix'd with the earth o'er which my footsteps
moved ; [ful ear
Blest by the tongues that charm'd my youth
Mourn'd by the few my soul acknowledged
here ;
Deplored by those in early days allied,
And unremember'd by the world beside.

OCCASIONAL PIECES.

FROM 1807 TO 1824.

ON REVISITING HARROW.*

Here once engaged the stranger's view,
Young Friendship's record simply traced ;
Few were her words, but yet, though few,
Resentment's hand the line defaced.

Deeply she cut—but not erased,
The characters were still so plain,
That Friendship once return'd and gazed—
Till Memory hail'd the words again.

Repentance placed them as before ;
Forgiveness join'd her gentle name ;
So fair the inscription seem'd once more,
That Friendship thought it still the same.

Thus might the record now have been ;
But ah ! in spite of Hope's endeavor,
Or Friendship's tears, Pride rush'd between,
And blotted out the line forever.

* Some years ago, when at Harrow, a friend of the author engraved on a particular spot the names of both, with a few additional words, as a memorial. Afterwards, on receiving some real or imagined injury, the author destroyed the frail record before he left Harrow. On revisiting the place in 1807, he wrote under it these stanzas.

EPITAPH ON JOHN ADAMS OF SOUTHWELL,

A CARRIER, WHO DIED OF DRUNKENNESS.

John Adams lies here, of the parish of South
well, [well :
A *Carrier* who *carried* his can to his mouth

He *carried* so much, and he *carried* so fast,
He could *carry* no more—so was *carried* at last;
For the liquor he drank, being too much for one,
He could not *carry* off—so he's now *carri-on.*

THE ADIEU.

WRITTEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AUTHOR WOULD SOON DIE.

Adieu, thou Hill! where early joy
Spread roses o'er my brow;
Where Science seeks each loitering boy
With knowledge to endow.
Adieu, my youthful friends or foes,
Partners of former bliss or woes;
No more through Ida's paths we stray;
Soon must I share the gloomy cell,
Whose ever-slumbering inmates dwell
Unconscious of the day.

Adieu, ye hoary Regal Fanes,
Ye spires of Granta's vale,
Where Learning robed in sable reigns,
And Melancholy pale.
Ye comrades of the jovial hour,
Ye tenants of the classic bower,
On Canna's verdant margin placed,
Adieu! while memory still is mine,
For, offerings on Oblivion's shrine,
These scenes must be effaced.

Adieu, ye mountains of the clime
Where grew my youthful years;
Where Loch na Garr in snows sublime
His giant summit rears.
Why did my childhood wander forth
From you, the regions of the North,
With sons of pride to roam?
Why did I quit my Highland cave,
Marr's dusky heath, and Dee's clear wave,
To seek a Sotheron home!

Hall of my Sires! a long farewell—
Yet why to thee adieu?
Thy vaults will echo back my knell,
Thy towers my tomb will view:
The faltering tongue which sung thy fall,
And former glories of thy Hall,
Forgets its wonted simple note—
But yet the Lyre retains the strings,
And sometimes, on Æolian wings,
In dying strains may float.

Fields, which surround yon rustic cot,
While yet I linger here,
Adieu! you are not now forgot,
To retrospection dear.
Streamlet! along whose rippling surge
My youthful limbs were wont to urge,
At noontide heat, their pliant course;
Plunging with ardor from the shore,
Thy springs will lave these limbs no more,
Deprived of active force.

And shall I here forget the scene,
Still nearest to my breast?
Rocks rise and rivers roll between
The spot which passion blest;
Yet, Mary, all thy beauties seem
Fresh as in Love's bewitching dream,
To me in smiles display'd;
Till slow disease resigns his prey
To Death, the parent of decay,
Thine image cannot fade.

And thou, my Friend! whose gentle love
Yet thrills my bosom's chords,
How much thy friendship was above
Description's power of words!
Still near my breast thy gift I wear
Which sparkled once with Feeling's tear,
Of Love the pure, the sacred gem;
Our souls were equal, and our lot
In that dear moment quite forgot;
Let Pride alone condemn!

All, all is dark and cheerless now!
No smile of Love's deceit
Can warm my veins with wonted glow,
Can bid Life's pulses beat:
Not e'en the hope of future fame
Can wake my faint, exhausted frame,
Or crown with fancied wreaths my head.
Mine is a short, inglorious race,—
To humble in the dust my face,
And mingle with the dead.

O Fame! thou goddess of my heart;
On him who gains thy praise,
Pointless must fall the Spectre's dart,
Consumed in Glory's blaze;
But me she beckons from the earth,
My name obscure, unmark'd my birth,
My life a short and vulgar dream:
Lost in the dull, ignoble crowd,
My hopes recline within a shroud,
My fate is Lethe's stream.

When I repose beneath the sod,
Unheeded in the clay,
Where once my playful footsteps trod,
Where now my head must lay,
The meed of Pity will be shed
In dew-drops o'er my narrow bed,
By nightly skies, and storms alone;
No mortal eye will deign to steep
With tears the dark sepulchral deep
Which hides a name unknown.

Forget this world, my restless sprite,
Turn, turn thy thoughts to Heaven:
There must thou soon direct thy flight,
If errors are forgiven.
To bigots and to sects unknown,
Bow down beneath the Almighty's Throne;
To Him address thy trembling prayer:
He, who is merciful and just,
Will not reject a child of dust,
Although his meanest care.

Father of Light! to Thee I call;
My soul is dark within:
Thou who canst mark the sparrow's fall,
Avert the death of sin.
Thou, who canst guide the wandering star,

Who calm'st the elemental war,
Whose mantle is yon boundless sky,
My thoughts, my words, my crimes forgive:
And, since I soon must cease to live,
Instruct me how to die.

TO ANNE.

Oh, Anne, your offences to me have been
grievous; [could save you:
I thought from my wrath no atonement
But woman is made to command and deceive
us— [you,
I look'd in your face and I almost forgave

I vow'd I could ne'er for a moment respect
you, [long;
Yet thought that a day's separation was
When we met, I determined again to suspect
you— [was wrong.
Your smile soon convinced me suspicion

I swore, in a transport of young indignation,
With fervent contempt evermore to disdain you:
I saw you—my anger became admiration;
And now, all my wish, all my hope's to regain you.

With beauty like yours, oh, how vain the contention! [you;
Thus lowly I sue for forgiveness before
At once to conclude such a fruitless dissension, [adore you!
Be false, my sweet Anne, when I cease to

TO THE SAME.

Oh, say not, sweet Anne, that the fates have
decreed [to dissever;
The heart which adores you should wish
Such Fates were to me most unkind ones indeed,— [ever.
To bear me from love and from beauty for-

Your frowns, lovely girl, are the Fates which
alone [frain;
Could bid me from fond admiration re-
By these, every hope, every wish were o'erthrown, [again.
Till smiles should restore me to rapture

As the ivy and oak, in the forest entwined,
The rage of the tempest united must
weather;
My love and my life were by nature design'd
To flourish alike, or to perish together.

Then say not, sweet Anne, that the Fates
have decreed
Your lover should bid you a lasting adieu;
Till Fate can ordain that his bosom shall
bleed,
His soul, his existence, are centred in you.

TO A VAIN LADY.

Ah! heedless girl! why thus disclose
What ne'er was meant for other ears;
Why thus destroy thine own repose
And dig the source of future tears?

Oh, thou wilt weep, imprudent maid,
While lurking envious foes will smile,
For all the follies thou hast said
Of those who spoke but to beguile.

Vain girl! thy lingering woes are nigh,
If thou believ'st what striplings say:
Oh, from the deep temptation fly,
Nor fall the specious spoiler's prey.

Dost thou repeat, in childish boast,
The words man utters to deceive?
Thy peace, thy hope, thy all is lost,
If thou canst venture to believe.

While now amongst thy female peers
Thou tell'st again the soothing tale,
Canst thou not mark the rising sneers
Duplicity in vain would veil?

These tales in secret silence hush,
Nor make thyself the public gaze:
What modest maid without a blush
Recounts a flattering coxcomb's praise?

Will not the laughing boy despise
Her who relates each fond conceit—
Who, thinking Heaven is in her eyes,
Yet cannot see the slight deceit?

For she who takes a soft delight
These amorous nothings in revealing,
Must credit all we say or write,
While vanity prevents concealing.

Cease, if you prize your beauty's reign!
No jealousy bids me reprove:
One, who is thus from nature vain,
I pity, but I cannot love.

TO THE AUTHOR OF A SONNET

BEGINNING "'SAD IS MY VERSE,' YOU SAY, 'AND YET NO TEAR.'"

Thy verse is "sad" enough, no doubt:
A devilish deal more sad than witty!
Why we should weep I can't find out,
Unless for *thee* we weep in pity.

Yet there is one I pity more;
And much, alas! I think he needs it;
For he, I'm sure, will suffer sore,
Who, to his own misfortune, reads it.

Thy rhymes, without the aid of magic,
May *once* be read—but never after:
Yet their effect's by no means tragic,
Although by far too dull for laughter.

But would you make our bosoms bleed,
And of no common pang complain—
If you would make us weep indeed,
Tell us, you'll read them o'er again.

FAREWELL TO THE MUSE.

Thou Power! who hast ruled me through infancy's days, [should part,
Young offspring of fancy, 'tis time we

Then rise on the gale this the last of my lays,
The coldest effusion which springs from my heart.

This bosom, responsive to rapture no more,
Shall hush thy wild notes, nor implore thee to sing; [to soar,
The feelings of childhood which taught thee
Are wafted far distant on Apathy's wing.

Though simple the themes of my rude flowing Lyre,
Yet even these themes are departed forever;
No more beam the eyes which my dream could inspire, [never.
My visions are flown, to return,—alas!

When drain'd is the nectar which gladdens the bowl,
How vain is the effort delight to prolong!
When cold is the beauty which dwelt in my soul,
What magic of fancy can lengthen my song?

Can the lips sing of Love in the desert alone,
Of kisses and smiles which they now must resign? [flown?
Or dwell with delight on the hours that are
Ah, no! for those hours can no longer be mine.

Can they speak of the friends that I lived but to love?
Ah, surely affection ennobles the strain!
But how can my numbers in sympathy move,
When I scarcely can hope to behold them again?

Can I sing of the deeds which my Fathers have done, [Sires?
And raise my loud harp to the fame of my
For glories, like theirs, oh, how faint is my tone!
For Heroes' exploits how unequal my fires!

Untouch'd, then, my Lyre shall reply to the blast— [o'er;
'Tis hush'd and my feeble endeavors are
And those who have heard it will pardon the past, [vibrate no more.
When they know that its murmurs shall

And soon shall its wild erring notes be forgot,
Since early affection and love are o'ercast;
Oh! blest had my fate been, and happy my lot,
Had the first strain of love been the dearest, the last.

Farewell, my young Muse! since we now can ne'er meet; [are few;
If our songs have been languid, they surely
Let us hope that the present at least will be sweet—
The present—which seals our eternal Adieu.

ON FINDING A FAN.

In one who felt as once he felt,
This might, perhaps, have fann'd the flame:
But now his heart no more will melt,
Because that heart is not the same.

As when the ebbing flames are low,
The aid which once improved their light,
And bade them burn with fiercer glow,
Now quenches all their blaze in night.

Thus it has been with passion's fires—
As many a boy and girl remembers—
While every hope of love expires,
Extinguish'd with the dying embers.

The *first*, though not a spark survive,
Some careful hand may teach to burn;
The *last*, alas! can ne'er survive;
No touch can bind its warmth return.

Or, if it chance to wake again,
Not always doom'd its heat to smother,
It sheds (so wayward fates ordain)
Its former warmth around another.

TO AN OAK AT NEWSTEAD.

Young Oak! when I planted thee deep in the ground, [mine;
I hoped that thy days would be longer than
That thy dark-waving branches would flourish around,
And ivy thy trunk with its mantle entwine.

Such, such was my hope, when in infancy's years,
On the land of my fathers I rear'd thee with pride; [tears,—
They are past, and I water thy stem with my
Thy decay not the weeds that surround thee can hide.

I left thee, my Oak, and, since that fatal hour,
A stranger has dwelt in the hall of my sire;
Till manhood shall crown me, not mine is the power, [expire.
But his, whose neglect may have bade thee

Oh! hardy thou wert—even now little care
Might revive thy young head, and thy wounds gently heal:
But thou wert not fated affection to share—
For who could suppose that a stranger would feel!

Ah, droop not, my Oak! lift thy head for a while; [run,
Ere twice round yon Glory this planet shall
The hand of thy Master will teach thee to smile, [done.
When Infancy's years of probation are

Oh, live then, my Oak! tow'r aloft from the weeds [decay,
That clog thy young growth, and assist thy
For still in thy bosom are life's early seeds,
And still may thy branches their beauty display.

Oh! yet, if maturity's years may be thine,
Though *I* shall lie low in the cavern of death, [shine,
On thy leaves yet the day-beam of ages may
Uninjured by time, or the rude winter's breath.

For centuries still may thy boughs lightly wave [laid ;
O'er the corse of thy lord in thy canopy
While the branches thus gratefully shelter his grave, [shade.
The chief who survives may recline in thy

And as he, with his boys, shall revisit this spot,
He will tell them in whispers more softly to tread,
Oh ! surely, by these I shall ne'er be forgot ;
Remembrance still hallows the dust of the dead.

And here, will they say, when in life's glowing prime, [simple lay,
Perhaps he has pour'd forth his young
And here must he sleep, till the moments of time
Are lost in the hours of Eternity's day.

TO MY SON.

Those flaxen locks, those eyes of blue,
Bright as thy mother's in their hue ;
Those rosy lips, whose dimples play
And smile to steal the heart away,
Recall a scene of former joy,
And touch thy father's heart, my Boy !

And thou canst lisp a father's name—
Ah, William, were thine own the same,—
No self-reproach—but, let me cease—
My care for thee shall purchase peace ;
Thy mother's shade shall smile in joy,
And pardon all the past, my Boy !

Her lowly grave the turf has prest,
And thou hast known a stranger's breast ;
Derision sneers upon thy birth,
And yields thee scarce a name on earth ;
Yet shall not these one hope destroy,—
A father's heart is thine, my Boy !

Why, let the world unfeeling frown,
Must I fond Nature's claim disown ?
Ah, no—though moralists reprove,
I hail thee, dearest child of love,
Fair cherub, pledge of youth and joy—
A father guards thy birth, my Boy !

Oh, 'twill be sweet in thee to trace,
Ere age has wrinkled o'er my face,
Ere half my glass of life is run,
At once a brother and a son ;
And all my wane of years employ
In justice done to thee, my Boy !

Although so young thy heedless sire,
Youth will not damp parental fire ;
And, wert thou still less dear to me,
While Helen's form revives in thee,
The breast, which beat to former joy,
Will ne'er desert its pledge, my Boy !

FAREWELL ! IF EVER FONDEST PRAYER.

Farewell ! if ever fondest prayer
For other's weal avail'd on high,
Mine will not all be lost in air,
But waft thy name beyond the sky.
'Twere vain to speak, to weep, to sigh :
Oh ! more than tears of blood can tell,
When wrung from guilt's expiring eye,
Are in that word—Farewell !—Farewell !

These lips are mute, these eyes are dry ;
But in my breast and in my brain,
Awake the pangs that pass not by,
The thought that ne'er shall sleep again.
My soul nor deigns nor dares complain,
Though grief and passion there rebel ;
I only know we loved in vain—
I only feel—Farewell !—Farewell !

BRIGHT BE THE PLACE OF THY SOUL.

Bright be the place of thy soul !
No lovelier spirit than thine
E'er burst from its mortal control
In the orbs of the blessed to shine.

On earth thou wert all but divine,
As thy soul shall immortally be ;
And our sorrow may cease to repine,
When we know that thy God is with thee.

Light be the turf of thy tomb !
May its verdure like emeralds be ;
There should not be the shadow of gloom
In aught that reminds us of thee.

Young flowers and an evergreen tree
May spring from the spot of thy rest :
But nor cypress nor yew let us see ;
For why should we mourn for the blest !

WHEN WE TWO PARTED.

When we two parted
In silence and tears,
Half broken-hearted
To sever for years,
Pale grew thy cheek and cold,
Colder thy kiss ;
Truly that hour foretold
Sorrow to this.

The dew of the morning
Sunk chill on my brow—
It felt like the warning
Of what I feel now.
Thy vows are all broken,
And light is thy fame :
I hear thy name spoken,
And share in its shame.

They name thee before me,
A knell to mine ear ;
A shudder comes o'er me—
Why wert thou so dear ?
They know not I knew thee,
Who knew thee too well :—
Long, long shall I rue thee,
Too deeply to tell.

In secret we met—
In silence I grieve,

That thy heart could forget,
Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee?—
With silence and tears.

TO A YOUTHFUL FRIEND.

Few years have pass'd since thou and I
Were firmest friends, at least in name,
And childhood's gay sincerity
Preserved our feelings long the same.

But now, like me, too well thou know'st
What trifles oft the heart recall;
And those who once have loved the most,
Too soon forget they loved at all.

And such the change the heart displays,
So frail is early friendship's reign,
A month's brief lapse, perhaps a day's,
Will view thy mind estranged again.

If so, it never shall be mine
To mourn the loss of such a heart;
The fault was Nature's fault, not thine,
Which made thee fickle as thou art.

As rolls the ocean's changing tide,
So human feelings ebb and flow;
And who would in a breast confide
Where stormy passions ever glow?

It boots not that, together bred,
Our childish days were days of joy:
My spring of life has quickly fled;
Thou, too, hast ceased to be a boy.

And when we bid adieu to youth,
Slaves to the specious world's control,
We sigh a long farewell to truth;
That world corrupts the noblest soul.

Ah, joyous season! when the mind
Dares all things boldly but to lie;
When thought ere spoke is unconfined,
And sparkles in the placid eye.

Not so in Man's maturer years,
When man himself is but a tool;
When interest sways our hopes and fears,
And all must love and hate by rule.

With fools in kindred vice the same,
We learn at length our faults to blend;
And those, and those alone, may claim
The prostituted name of friend.

Such is the common lot of man:
Can we then 'scape from folly free?
Can we reverse the general plan,
Nor be what all in turn must be?

No; for myself, so dark my fate
Through every turn of life hath been;
Man and the world so much I hate,
I care not when I quit the scene.

But thou, with spirit frail and light,
Wilt shine awhile and pass away;
As glow-worms sparkle through the night,
But dare not stand the test of day.

Alas! whenever folly calls
Where parasites and princes meet
(For cherish'd first in royal halls,
The welcome vices kindly greet).

Ev'n now thou'rt nightly seen to add
One insect to the fluttering crowd;
And still thy trifling heart is glad
To join the vain and court the proud.

There dost thou glide from fair to fair,
Still simpering on with eager haste,
As flies along the gay parterre,
That taint the flowers they scarcely taste.

But say, what nymph will prize the flame
Which seems, as marshy vapors move,
To flit along from dame to dame,
An ignis-fatuus gleam of love?

What friend for thee, howe'er inclined,
Will deign to own a kindred care?
Who will debase his manly mind,
For friendship every fool may share?

In time forbear; amidst the throng
No more so base a thing be seen;
No more so idly pass along;
Be something, anything, but—mean.

LINES INSCRIBED UPON A CUP FORMED FROM A SKULL.

Start not—nor deem my spirit fled;
In me behold the only skull,
From which, unlike a living head,
Whatever flows is never dull.

I lived, I loved, I quaff'd like thee:
I died: let earth my bones resign;
Fill up—thou canst not injure me;
The worm hath fouler lips than thine.

Better to hold the sparkling grape,
Than nurse the earth-worm's slimy brood:
And circle in the goblet's shape
The drink of gods, than reptile's food.

Where once my wit, perchance, hath shone,
In aid of others' let me shine;
And when, alas! our brains are gone,
What nobler substitute than wine?

Quaff while thou canst: another race,
When thou and thine, like me, are sped,
May rescue thee from earth's embrace,
And rhyme and revel with the dead.

Why not? since through life's little day
Our heads such sad effects produce;
Redeem'd from worms and wasting clay,
This chance is theirs, to be of use.

WELL! THOU ART HAPPY.

Well! thou art happy, and I feel
That I should thus be happy too;

For still my heart regards thy weal
Warmly, as it was wont to do.

Thy husband's blest—and 'twill impart
Some pangs to view his happier lot:
But let them pass—Oh! how my heart
Would hate him if he loved thee not!

When late I saw thy favorite child,
I thought my jealous heart would break;
But when the unconscious infant smiled,
I kiss'd it for its mother's sake.

I kiss'd it,—and repress'd my sighs
Its father in its face to see;
But then it had its mother's eyes,
And they were all to love and me.

Mary, adieu! I must away:
While thou art blest I'll not repine;
But near thee I can never stay;
My heart would soon again be thine.

I deem'd that time, I deem'd that pride,
Had quench'd at length my boyish flame;
Nor knew till seated by thy side,
My heart in all—save hope—the same.

Yet was I calm; I knew the time
My breast would thrill before thy look;
But now to tremble were a crime—
We met,—and not a nerve was shook.

I saw thee gaze upon my face,
Yet meet with no confusion there;
One only feeling couldst thou trace,
The sullen calmness of despair.

Away! away! my early dream
Remembrance never must awake:
Oh! where is Lethe's fabled stream?
My foolish heart, be still, or break.

INSCRIPTION ON THE MONUMENT OF A NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

When some proud son of man returns to earth,
Unknown to glory but upheld by birth,
The sculptor's art exhausts the pomp of woe,
And storied urns record who rest below;
When all is done, upon the tomb is seen,
Not what he was, but what he should have been:
But the poor dog, in life the firmest friend,
The first to welcome, foremost to defend,
Whose honest heart is still his master's own,
Who labors, fights, lives, breathes for him alone,
Unhonor'd falls, unnoticed all his worth,
Denied in heaven the soul he held on earth:
While man, vain insect! hopes to be forgiven,
And claims himself a sole exclusive heaven.
O man! thou feeble tenant of an hour,
Debased by slavery or corrupt by power,
Who knows thee well must quit thee with disgust,
Degraded mass of animated dust!
Thy love is lust, thy friendship all a cheat,
Thy smiles hypocrisy, thy words deceit!
By nature vile, ennobled but by name,
Each kindred brute might bid thee blush for shame.
Ye! who perchance behold the simple urn,
Pass on—it honors none you wish to mourn:
To mark a friend's remains these stones arise;
I never knew but one,—and here he lies.

TO A LADY,

ON BEING ASKED MY REASON FOR QUITTING ENGLAND IN THE SPRING.

When Man, expell'd from Eden's bowers,
A moment linger'd near the gate,
Each scene recall'd the vanish'd hours,
And bade him curse his future fate.

But wandering on through distant climes
He learnt to bear his load of grief;
Just gave a sigh to other times,
And found in busier scenes relief.

Thus, lady! will it be with me,
And I must view thy charms no more;
For while I linger near to thee,
I sigh for all I knew before.

In flight I shall be surely wise,
Escaping from temptation's snare;
I cannot view my paradise
Without the wish of dwelling there.

REMIND ME NOT, REMIND ME NOT.

Remind me not, remind me not,
Of those beloved, those vanish'd hours,
When all my soul was given to thee;
Hours that may never be forgot,
Till time unnerves our vital powers,
And thou and I shall cease to be.

Can I forget—canst thou forget,
When playing with thy golden hair,
How quick thy fluttering heart did move?
Oh! by my soul, I see thee yet,
With eyes so languid, breast so fair,
And lips, though silent, breathing love.

When thus reclining on my breast,
Those eyes threw back a glance so sweet,
As half reproached, yet raised desire,
And still we near and nearer prest,
And still our glowing lips would meet,
As if in kisses to expire.

And then those pensive eyes would close,
And bid their lids each other seek,
Veiling the azure orbs below;
While their long lashes' darken'd gloss
Seem'd stealing o'er thy brilliant cheek,
Like raven's plumage smooth'd on snow.

I dreamt last night our love return'd,
And, sooth to say, that very dream
Was sweeter in its phantasy,
Than if for other hearts I burn'd,
For eyes that ne'er like thine could beam
In rapture's wild reality.

Then tell me not, remind me not,
Of hours which, though forever gone,
Can still a pleasing dream restore,
Till thou and I shall be forgot,
And senseless as the mouldering stone,
Which tells that we shall be no more.

THERE WAS A TIME, I NEED NOT NAME.

There was a time, I need not name,
Since it will ne'er forgotten be,
When all our feelings were the same
As still my soul hath been to thee.

And from that hour, when first thy tongue
Confess'd a love which equall'd mine,
Though many a grief my heart hath wrung,
Unknown, and thus unfelt by thine.

None, none hath sunk so deep as this—
To think how all that love hath flown;
Transient as every faithless kiss,
But transient in thy breast alone.

And yet my heart some solace knew;
When late I heard thy lips declare,
In accents once imagined true,
Remembrance of the days that were.

Yes! my adored, but most unkind!
Though thou wilt never love again,
To me 'tis doubly sweet to find
Remembrance of that love remain.

Yes! 'tis a glorious thought to me,
Nor longer shall my soul repine,
Whate'er thou art, or e'er shalt be,
Thou hast been dearly, solely mine.

AND WILT THOU WEEP WHEN I AM LOW?

And wilt thou weep when I am low?
Sweet lady! speak those words again:
Yet if they grieve thee, say not so—
I would not give that bosom pain.

My heart is sad, my hopes are gone,
My blood runs coldly through my breast:
And when I perish, thou alone
Wilt sigh above my place of rest.

And yet, methinks, a gleam of peace
Doth through my cloud of anguish shine,
And for a while my sorrows cease,
To know thy heart hath felt for mine.

O lady! blessed be that tear—
It falls for one who cannot weep;
Such precious drops are doubly dear
To those whose eyes no tear may steep.

Sweet lady! once my heart was warm
With every feeling soft as thine;
But beauty's self hath ceased to charm
A wretch created to repine.

Yet wilt thou weep when I am low?
Sweet lady! speak those words again;
Yet if they grieve thee, say not so—
I would not give that bosom pain.

FILL THE GOBLET AGAIN.

A SONG.

Fill the goblet again! for I never before
Felt the glow which now gladdens my heart to its core;
Let us drink!—who would not?—since, through life's varied round,
In the goblet alone no deception is found.

I have tried in its turn all that life can supply;
I have basked in the beam of a dark rolling eye;
I have lov'd!—who has not?—but what heart can declare,
That pleasure existed while passion was there?

In the days of my youth, when the heart's in its spring,
And dreams that affection can never take wing,
I had friends!—who has not?—but what tongue will avow,
That friends, rosy wine! are so faithful as thou?

The heart of a mistress some boy may estrange,
Friendship shifts with the sunbeam—thou never canst change!
Thou grow'st old!—who does not?—but on earth what appears,
Whose virtues, like thine, still increase with its years?

Yet if blest to the utmost that love can bestow,
Should a rival bow down to your idol below,
We are jealous!—who's not?—thou hast no such alloy;
For the more that enjoy thee, the more we enjoy.

Then the season of youth and its vanities past,
For refuge we fly to the goblet at last;
There we find—do we not?—in the flow of the soul,
That truth, as of yore, is confined to the bowl.

When the box of Pandora was open'd on earth,
And Misery's triumph commenced over Mirth,
Hope was left—was she not?—but the goblet we kiss,
And care not for Hope, who are certain of bliss.

Long life to the grape! for when summer has flown,
The age of our nectar shall gladden our own:
We must die—who shall not?—may our sins be forgiven,
And Hebe shall never be idle in Heaven.

STANZAS TO A LADY,* ON LEAVING ENGLAND.

'Tis done—and shivering in the gale
The bark unfurls her snowy sail;
And whistling o'er the bending mast,
Loud sings on high the freshening blast;

* Mrs. Musters, formerly Mary Chaworth.

And I must from this land be gone,
Because I cannot love but one.

But could I be what I have been,
And could I see what I have seen—
Could I repose upon the breast
Which once my warmest wishes blest—
I should not seek another zone,
Because I cannot love but one.

'Tis long since I beheld that eye
Which gave me bliss or misery ;
And I have striven, but in vain,
Never to think of it again ;
For though I fly from Albion,
I still can only love but one.

As some lone bird, without a mate,
My weary heart is desolate ;
I look around, and cannot trace
One friendly smile, or welcome face ;
And ev'n in crowds am still alone,
Because I cannot love but one.

And I will cross the whitening foam,
And I will seek a foreign home ;
Till I forget a false fair face,
I ne'er shall find a resting-place ;
My own dark thoughts I cannot shun,
But ever love, and love but one.

The poorest, veriest wretch on earth
Still finds some hospitable hearth,
Where Friendship's or Love's softer glow
May smile in joy or soothe in woe ;
But friend or leman I have none,
Because I cannot love but one.

I go—but wheresoe'er I flee,
There's not an eye will weep for me ;
There's not a kind congenial heart,
Where I can claim the meanest part ;
Nor thou, who hast my hopes undone,
Wilt sigh, although I love but one.

To think of every early scene,
Of what we are, and what we've been,
Would whelm some softer hearts with woe—
But mine, alas ! has stood the blow ;
Yet still beats on as it begun,
And never truly loves but one.

And who that dear loved one may be,
Is not for vulgar eyes to see ;
And why that early love was crost,
Thou know'st the best, I feel the most :
But few that dwell beneath the sun
Have loved so long, and loved but one.

I've tried another's fetters too,
With charms perchance as fair to view ;
And I would fain have loved as well,
But some unconquerable spell
Forbade my bleeding breast to own
A kindred care for aught but one.

'Twould soothe to take one lingering view,
And bless thee in my last adieu :
Yet wish I not those eyes to weep
For him that wanders o'er the deep ;
His home, his hope, his youth are gone,
Yet still he loves, and loves but one.

LINES TO MR. HODGSON.

WRITTEN ON BOARD THE LISBON PACKET.

Huzza ! Hodgson, we are going,
Our embargo's off at last ;
Favorable breezes blowing
Bend the canvas o'er the mast.
From aloft the signal's streaming,
Hark ! the farewell gun is fired ;
Women screeching, tars blaspheming,
Tell us that our time's expired.
Here's a rascal "
Come to task all,
Prying from the custom-house ;
Trunks unpacking,
Cases cracking,
Not a corner for a mouse
'Scapes unsearch'd amid the racket,
Ere we sail on board the Packet.

Now our boatmen quit their mooring,
And all hands must ply the oar ;
Baggage from the quay is lowering,
We're impatient, push from shore.
"Have a care ! that case holds liquor—
Stop the boat—I'm sick—oh, Lord !"
"Sick, ma'am ; damme, you'll be sicker
Ere you've been an hour on board."
Thus are screaming
Men and women,
Gemmen, ladies, servants, Jacks ;
Here entangling,
All are wrangling,
Stuck together close as wax—
Such the general noise and racket,
Ere we reach the Lisbon Packet.

Now we've reached her, lo ! the captain,
Gallant Kidd, commands the crew :
Passengers their berths are clapt in,
Some to grumble, some to spew.
"Heyday ! call you that a cabin ?
Why, 'tis hardly three feet square :
Not enough to stow Queen Mab in—
Who the deuce can harbor there ?"
"Who, sir ? plenty—
Nobles twenty
Did at once my vessel fill."—
"Did they ? Jesus,
How you squeeze us !
Would to God they did so still :
Then I'd 'scape the heat and racket
Of the good ship, Lisbon Packet."

Fletcher ! Murray ! Bob ! where are you ?
Stretch'd along the deck like logs—
Bear a hand, you jolly tar, you !
Here's a rope's end for the dogs.
Hobhouse muttering fearful curses,
As the hatchway down he rolls,
Now his breakfast, now his verses,
Vomits forth—and damns our souls.
"Here's a stanza
On Braganza—

Help!"—"A couplet?"—"No, a cup
Of warm water—"
"What's the matter?"
"Zounds! my liver's coming up:
I shall not survive the racket
Of this brutal Lisbon Packet."

Now at length we're off for Turkey,
Lord knows when we shall come back,
Breezes foul and tempests murky
May unship us in a crack.
But, since life at most a jest is,
As philosophers allow,
Still to laugh by far the best is,
Then laugh on—as I do now.
Laugh at all things,
Great and small things,
Sick or well, at sea or shore;
While we're quaffing,
Let's have laughing—
Who the devil cares for more?—
Some good wine! and who would lack it,
Ev'n on board the Lisbon Packet?

TO FLORENCE.

O Lady! when I left the shore,
The distant shore which gave me birth,
I hardly thought to grieve once more,
To quit another spot on earth;

Yet here, amidst this barren isle,
Where panting Nature droops the head,
Where only thou art seen to smile,
I view my parting hour with dread.

Though far from Albion's craggy shore,
Divided by the dark blue main;
A few brief rolling seasons o'er,
Perchance I view her cliffs again:

But wheresoe'er I now may roam,
Through scorching clime and varied sea,
Though Time restore me to my home,
I ne'er shall bend mine eyes on thee:

On thee, in whom at once conspire
All charms which heedless hearts can move,
Whom but to see is to admire,
And, oh! forgive the word—to love.

Forgive the word, in one who ne'er
With such a word can more offend;
And since thy heart I cannot share,
Believe me what I am, thy friend.

And who so cold as look on thee,
Thou lovely wanderer, and be less?
Nor be what man should ever be,
The friend of Beauty in distress?

Ah! who would think that form had past
Through Danger's most destructive path,
Had braved the death-wing'd tempest's blast,
And 'scaped a tyrant's fiercer wrath?

Lady! when I shall view the walls
Where free Byzantium once arose,
And Stamboul's Oriental halls
The Turkish tyrants now enclose;

Though mightiest in the lists of fame
That glorious city still shall be;
On me 'twill hold a dearer claim,
As spot of thy nativity:

And though I bid thee now farewell,
When I behold that wondrous scene,
Since where thou art I may not dwell,
'Twill soothe to be where thou hast been.

LINES WRITTEN IN AN ALBUM, AT MALTA.

As o'er the cold sepulchral stone
Some name arrests the passer-by;
Thus, when thou view'st this page alone,
May mine attract thy pensive eye!

And when by thee that name is read,
Perchance in some succeeding year,
Reflect on me as on the dead,
And think my heart is buried here.

STANZAS

COMPOSED DURING A THUNDER-STORM, AND WHILE BEWILDERED NEAR MOUNT PINDUS IN ALBANIA.

Chill and mirk is the nightly blast,
Where Pindus' mountains rise,
And angry clouds are pouring fast
The vengeance of the skies.

Our guides are gone, our hope is lost,
And lightnings, as they play,
But show where rocks our path have crost,
Or gild the torrent's spray.

Is yon a cot I saw, though low?
When lightning broke the gloom—
How welcome were its shade!—ah, no!
'Tis but a Turkish tomb.

Through sounds of foaming waterfalls,
I hear a voice exclaim—
My way-worn countryman, who calls
On distant England's name.

A shot is fired—by foe or friend?
Another—'tis to tell
The mountain-peasants to descend
And lead us where they dwell.

Oh! who in such a night will dare
To tempt the wilderness?
And who 'mid thunder-peals can hear
Our signal of distress?

And who that heard our shouts would rise
To try the dubious road?
Nor rather deem from nightly cries
That outlaws were abroad?

Clouds burst, skies flash,—oh, dreadful hour!
More fiercely pours the storm!
Yet here one thought has still the power
To keep my bosom warm.

While wandering through each broken path,
O'er brake and craggy brow:

While elements exhaust their wrath,
Sweet Florence, where art thou?

Not on the sea, not on the sea,
Thy bark hath long been gone:
Oh, may the storm that pours on me,
Bow down my head alone!

Full swiftly blew the swift Siroc,
When last I press'd thy lip;
And long ere now, with foaming shock,
Impell'd thy gallant ship.

Now thou art safe; nay, long ere now
Hast trod the shore of Spain;
'Twere hard if aught so fair as thou
Should linger on the main.

And since I now remember thee
In darkness and in dread,
As in those hours of revelry
Which mirth and music sped;

Do thou, amid the fair white walls,
If Cadiz yet be free,
At times, from out her latticed halls,
Look o'er the dark blue sea;

Then think upon Calypso's isles,
Endear'd by days gone by;
To others give a thousand smiles,
To me a single sigh.

And when the admiring circle mark
The paleness of thy face,
A half-form'd tear, a transient spark
Of melancholy grace,

Again thou'lt smile, and blushing shun
Some coxcomb's raillery;
Nor own for once thou thought'st on one
Who ever thinks on thee.

Though smile and sigh alike are vain,
When sever'd hearts repine,
My spirit flies o'er mount and main,
And mourns in search of thine.

STANZAS

WRITTEN IN PASSING THE AMBRACIAN GULF.

Through cloudless skies, in silvery sheen,
Full beams the moon on Actium's coast:
And on these waves, for Egypt's queen,
The ancient world was won and lost.

And now upon the scene I look,
The azure grave of many a Roman;
Where stern Ambition once forsook
His wavering crown to follow woman.

Florence!* whom I will love as well
As ever yet was said or sung
(Since Orpheus sang his spouse from hell),
Whilst thou art fair and I am young;

Sweet Florence! those were pleasant times,
When worlds were staked for ladies' eyes:

Had bards as many realms as rhymes,
Thy charms might raise new Antonies.

Though Fate forbids such things to be,
Yet, by thine eyes and ringlets curl'd!
I cannot lose a world for thee,
But would not lose thee for a world.

THE SPELL IS BROKE, THE CHARM IS FLOWN!

WRITTEN AT ATHENS, JANUARY 16, 1810.

The spell is broke, the charm is flown!
Thus is it with life's fitful fever:
We madly smile when we should groan;
Delirium is our best deceiver.

Each lucid interval of thought
Recalls the woes of Nature's charter;
And he that acts as wise men ought,
But lives, as saints have died, a martyr.

WRITTEN AFTER SWIMMING FROM SESTOS TO ABYDOS.*

If, in the month of dark December,
Leander, who was nightly wont
(What maid will not the tale remember?)
To cross thy stream, broad Hellespont!

If, when the wintry tempest roar'd,
He sped to Hero, nothing loth,
And thus of old thy current pour'd,
Fair Venus! how I pity both!

For *me*, degenerate modern wretch,
Though in the genial month of May,
My dripping limbs I faintly stretch,
And think I've done a feat to-day.

But since he cross'd the rapid tide,
According to the doubtful story,
To woo,—and—Lord knows what beside,
And swam for love, as I for glory;

* Mrs. Spencer Smith.

* On the 3d of May, 1810, while the "Salsette" (Captain Bathurst) was lying in the Dardanelles, Lieutenant Ekenhead of that frigate and the writer of these rhymes swam from the European shore to the Asiatic—by the by, from Abydos to Sestos would have been more correct. The whole distance from the place whence we started to our landing on the other side, including the length we were carried by the current, was computed by those on board the frigate at upwards of four English miles, though the actual breadth is barely one. The rapidity of the current is such that no boat can row directly across; and it may, in some measure, be estimated from the circumstance of the whole distance being accomplished by one of the parties in an hour and five, and by the other in an hour and ten minutes. The water was extremely cold, from the melting of the mountain snows. About three weeks before, in April, we had made an attempt; but having ridden all the way from the Troad the same morning, and the water being of an icy chilliness, we found it necessary to postpone the completion till the frigate anchored below the castles, when we swam the straits, as just stated; entering a considerable way above the European and landing below the Asiatic fort. Chevalier says that a young Jew swam the same distance for his mistress, and Oliver mentions its having been done by a Neapolitan; but our consul, Tarragona, remembered neither of these circumstances, and tried to dissuade us from the attempt. A number of the "Salsette's" crew were known to have accomplished a greater distance; and the only thing that surprised me was that, as doubts had been entertained of the truth of Leander's story, no traveller had ever endeavored to ascertain its practicability.

Twere hard to say who fared the best ;
Sad mortals ! thus the gods still plague you !
He lost his labor, I my jest ;
For he was drown'd, and I've the ague.

LINES WRITTEN IN THE TRAVELLERS' BOOK AT ORCHOMENUS.

IN THIS BOOK A TRAVELLER HAD WRITTEN :

"Fair Albion, smiling, sees her son depart
To trace the birth and nursery of art :
Noble his object, glorious is his aim ;
He comes to Athens, and he writes his name."

BENEATH WHICH LORD BYRON INSERTED THE FOLLOWING :

"The modest bard, like many a bard unknown,
Rhymes on our names, but wisely hides his own ;
But yet, whoe'er he be, to say no worse,
His name would bring more credit than his verse.

MAID OF ATHENS, ERE WE PART.

Ζώη μοῦ, σᾶς ἀγαπῶ.

Maid of Athens, ere we part,
Give, oh give me back my heart !
Or, since that has left my breast,
Keep it now, and take the rest !
Hear my vow before I go,
*Ζώη μοῦ, σᾶς ἀγαπῶ.**

By those tresses unconfined,
Woo'd by each Ægean wind ;
By those lids whose jetty fringe
Kiss thy soft cheeks' blooming tinge ;
By those wild eyes like the roe,
Ζώη μοῦ, σᾶς ἀγαπῶ.

By that lip I long to taste ;
By that zone-encircled waist ;
By all the token-flowers that tell †
What words can never speak so well ;
By love's alternate joy and woe,
Ζώη μοῦ, σᾶς ἀγαπῶ.

Maid of Athens ! I am gone :
Think of me, sweet ! when alone.
Though I fly to Istambol, ‡
Athens holds my heart and soul :
Can I cease to love thee? No !
Ζώη μοῦ, σᾶς ἀγαπῶ.

* Romaic expression of tenderness : if I translate it, I shall affront the gentlemen, as it may seem that I suppose they could not ; and if I do not, I may affront the ladies. For fear of any misconstruction on the part of the latter, I shall do so, begging pardon of the learned. It means, "My life, I love you !" which sounds very prettily in all languages, and is as much in fashion in Greece at this day, as, Juvenal tells us, the two first words were amongst the Roman ladies, whose erotic expressions were all Hellenized.

† In the East (where ladies are not taught to write, lest they should scribble assignations), flowers, cinders, pebbles, etc., convey the sentiments of the parties, by that universal deputy of Mercury—an old woman. A finger says, "I burn for thee" ; a bunch of flowers tied with hair, "Take me and fly" ; but a pebble declares—what nothing else can.

‡ Constantinople.

TRANSLATION OF THE NURSE'S DOLE IN THE MEDEA OF EURIPIDES.

Oh how I wish that an embargo
Had kept in port the good ship Argo !
Who, still unlaunch'd from Grecian docks,
Had never pass'd the Azure rocks ;
But now I fear her trip will be a
Damn'd business for my Miss Medea, etc., etc.

MY EPITAPH.

Youth, Nature, and relenting Jove,
To keep my lamp *in* strongly strove ;
But Romanelli was so stout,
He beat all three—and *blew* it *out*.

SUBSTITUTE FOR AN EPITAPH.

Kind Reader! take your choice to cry or laugh;
Here Harold lies—but where's his Epitaph?
If such you seek, try Westminster and view
Ten thousand just as fit for him as you.
Athens.

LINES WRITTEN BENEATH A PICTURE.

Dear object of defeated care !
Though now of Love and thee bereft,
To reconcile me with despair,
Thine image and my tears are left.

'Tis said with Sorrow Time can cope ;
But this I feel can ne'er be true :
For by the death-blow of my Hope
My Memory immortal grew.

TRANSLATION OF THE FAMOUS GREEK WAR SONG.

*Δεῦτε παῖδες Ἑλλήνων.**

Sons of the Greeks, arise !
The glorious hour's gone forth,
And, worthy of such ties,
Display who gave us birth.

CHORUS.

Sons of Greeks ! let us go
In arms against the foe,
Till their hated blood shall flow
In river past our feet.

Then manfully despising
The Turkish tyrant's yoke,
Let your country see you rising,
And all her chains are broke.
Brave shades of chiefs and sages,
Behold the coming strife !
Hellénes of past ages,
Oh, start again to life !
At the sound of my trumpet, breaking

* The song was written by Riga, who perished in the attempt to revolutionize Greece. This translation is as literal as the author could make it in verse. It is of the same measure as that of the original.

Your sleep, oh, join with me!
And the seven-hill'd city seeking,*
Fight, conquer, till we're free.
Sons of Greeks, etc.

Sparta, Sparta, why in slumbers
Lethargic dost thou lie?
Awake, and join thy numbers
With Athens, old ally!
Leonidas recalling,
That chief of ancient song,
Who saved ye once from falling,
The terrible! the strong!
Who made that bold diversion
In old Thermopylæ,
And warring with the Persian
To keep his country free;
With his three hundred waging
The battle, long he stood,
And like a lion raging,
Expired in seas of blood.
Sons of Greeks, etc.

TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAIC SONG,

Μπενω μες 'τσ' πέριβόλι·
'Ωραιότατη Χάηδή, etc.†

I ENTER thy garden of roses,
Beloved and fair Haidée,
Each morning where Flora reposes,
For surely I see her in thee.
Oh, Lovely! thus low I implore thee,
Receive this fond truth from my tongue,
Which utters its song to adore thee,
Yet trembles for what it has sung;
As the branch, at the bidding of Nature,
Adds fragrance and fruit to the tree,
Through her eyes, through her every feature,
Shines the soul of the young Haidée.

But the loveliest garden grows hateful
When Love has abandon'd the bowers;
Bring me hemlock—since mine is ungrateful,
That herb is more fragrant than flowers.
The poison, when pour'd from the chalice,
Will deeply embitter the bowl;
But when drunk to escape from thy malice,
The draught shall be sweet to my soul.
Too cruel! in vain I implore thee
My heart from these horrors to save:
Will naught to my bosom restore thee?
Then open the gates of the grave.

As the chief who to combat advances
Secure of his conquest before,
Thus thou, with those eyes for thy lances,
Hast pierced through my heart to its core.
Ah, tell me, my soul, must I perish
By pangs which a smile would dispel?
Would the hope, which thou once bad'st me cherish,
For torture repay me too well?
Now sad is the garden of roses,
Beloved but false Haidée!
There Flora all withered reposes,
And mourns o'er thine absence with me.

* Constantinople.

† The song from which this is taken is a great favorite with the young girls of Athens of all classes. Their manner of singing it is by verses in rotation, the whole number present joining in the chorus. The air is plaintive and pretty.

ON PARTING.

THE kiss, dear maid! thy lip has left
Shall never part from mine,
Till happier hours restore the gift
Untainted back to thine.

Thy parting glance, which fondly beams,
An equal love may see:
The tear that from thine eyelid streams
Can weep no change in me.

I ask no pledge to make me blest
In gazing when alone;
Nor one memorial for a breast
Whose thoughts are all thine own.

Nor need I write—to tell the tale
My pen were doubly weak;
Oh! what can idle words avail,
Unless the heart could speak?

By day or night, in weal or woe,
That heart, no longer free,
Must bear the love it cannot show,
And silent ache for thee.

ON A CORNELIAN HEART WHICH WAS BROKEN.

ILL-FATED Heart! and can it be,
That thou shouldst thus be rent in twain?
Have years of care for thine and thee
Alike been all employed in vain?

Yet precious seems each shatter'd part,
And every fragment dearer grown,
Since he who wears thee feels thou art
A fitter emblem of *his own*.

LINES TO A LADY WEEPING.*

WEEP, daughter of a royal line,
A Sire's disgrace, a realm's decay;
Ah! happy if each tear of thine
Could wash a father's fault away!

Weep—for thy tears are Virtue's tears—
Auspicious to these suffering isles;
And be each drop in future years
Repaid thee by thy people's smiles!

THE CHAIN I GAVE.

FROM THE TURKISH.

THE chain I gave was fair to view,
The lute I added sweet in sound;
The heart that offered both was true,
And ill deserved the fate it found.

These gifts were charm'd by secret spell,
Thy truth in absence to divine;

* The Princess Charlotte. (EDIT.)

And they have done their duty well—
Alas! they could not teach thee thine.

That chain was firm in every link,
But not to bear a stranger's touch;
That lute was sweet—till thou couldst think
In other hands its notes were such.

Let him who from thy neck unbound
The chain which shivered in his grasp,
Who saw that lute refuse to sound,
Restring the chords, renew the clasp.

When thou wert changed, they alter'd too;
The chain is broke, the music mute.
'Tis past—to them and thee adieu—
False heart, frail chain, and silent lute.

EPITAPH FOR JOSEPH BLACKETT, LATE POET AND SHOEMAKER.

Stranger! behold, interr'd together,
The *souls* of learning and of leather.
Poor Joe is gone, but left his *all:*
You'll find his relics in a *stall.*
His works were neat, and often found
Well stitch'd, and with *morocco* bound.
Tread lightly—where the bard is laid
He cannot mend the shoe he made;
Yet is he happy in his hole,
With verse immortal as his *sole.*
But still to business he held fast,
And stuck to Phœbus to the last,
Then who shall say so good a fellow
Was only "leather and prunella"?
For character—he did not lack it;
And if he did, 'twere shame to "Black it."

FAREWELL TO MALTA.

Adieu, ye joys of La Valette!
Adieu, sirocco, sun and sweat!
Adieu, thou palace rarely enter'd!
Adieu, ye mansions where—I've ventured!
Adieu, ye cursed streets of stairs!
(How surely he who mounts you swears!)
Adieu, ye merchants often failing!
Adieu, thou mob forever railing!
Adieu, ye packets—without letters!
Adieu, ye fools—who ape your betters!
Adieu, thou damned'st quarantine,
That gave me fever and the spleen! [Sirs.
Adieu, that stage which makes us yawn,
Adieu, his Excellency's dancers!

Adieu to Peter—whom no fault's in,
But could not teach a colonel waltzing;
Adieu, ye females fraught with graces!
Adieu, red coats, and redder faces!
Adieu, the supercilious air
Of all that strut "en militaire!"
I go—but God knows when, or why,
To smoky towns and cloudy sky,
To things (the honest truth to say)
As bad—but in a different way.

Farewell to these, but not adieu,
Triumphant sons of truest blue!
While either Adriatic shore,
And fallen chiefs, and fleets no more,
And nightly smiles, and daily dinners,
Proclaim you war and woman's winners.
Pardon my Muse, who apt to prate is,
And take my rhyme—because 'tis "gratis."

And now I've got to Mrs. Fraser,
Perhaps you think I mean to praise her—
And were I vain enough to think
My praise was worth this drop of ink,
A line—or two—were no hard matter,
As here, indeed, I need not flatter:
But she must be content to shine
In better praises than in mine,
With lively air, and open heart,
And fashion's ease, without its art;
Her hours can gaily glide along,
Nor ask the aid of idle song.

And now, O Malta, since thou'st got us,
Thou little military hothouse!
I'll not offend with words uncivil,
And wish thee rudely at the Devil,
But only stare from out my casement,
And ask, for what is such a place meant?
Then, in my solitary nook,
Return to scribbling, or a book,
Or take my physic while I'm able
(Two spoonfuls hourly by the label),
Prefer my nightcap to my beaver,
And bless the gods I've got a fever.

TO DIVES.

A FRAGMENT.

Unhappy Dives! in an evil hour [curst!
'Gainst Nature's voice seduced to deeds ac-
Once Fortune's minion, now thou feel'st her power;
Wrath's vial on thy lofty head hath burst.
In Wit, in Genius, as in Wealth the first,
How wondrous bright thy blooming morn arose! [thirst
But thou wert smitten with th' unhallow'd
Of crime un-named, and thy sad noon must close [woes.
In scorn, and solitude unsought, the worst of

ON MOORE'S LAST OPERATIC FARCE, OR FARCICAL OPERA.

Good plays are scarce,
So Moore writes farce:
The poet's fame grows brittle—
We knew before
That *Little's* Moore,
But now 'tis *Moore* that's *little.*

EPISTLE TO A FRIEND,

IN ANSWER TO SOME LINES EXHORTING THE AUTHOR TO BE CHEERFUL, AND TO "BANISH CARE."

"Oh! banish care"—such ever be
The motto of *thy* revelry!
Perchance of *mine,* when wassail nights
Renew those riotous delights,

Wherewith the children of Despair
Lull the lone heart, and "banish care."
But not in morn's reflecting hour,
When present, past, and future lower,
When all I loved is changed or gone,
Mock with such taunts the woes of one,
Whose every thought—but let them pass—
Thou know'st I am not what I was.
But, above all, if thou wouldst hold
Place in a heart that ne'er was cold,
By all the powers that men revere,
By all unto thy bosom dear,
Thy joys below, thy hopes above,
Speak—speak of anything but love.

'Twere long to tell, and vain to hear,
The tale of one who scorns a tear;
And there is little in that tale
Which better bosoms would bewail.
But mine has suffer'd more than well
'Twould suit philosophy to tell.
I've seen my bride another's bride,—
Have seen her seated by his side,—
Have seen the infant which she bore,
Wear the sweet smile the mother wore,
When she and I in youth have smiled,
As fond and faultless as her child;
Have seen her eyes, in cold disdain,
Ask if I have felt no secret pain;
And *I* have acted well my part,
And made my cheek belie my heart,
Return'd the freezing glance she gave,
Yet felt the while *that* woman's slave,—
Have kiss'd, as if without design,
The babe which ought to have been mine,
And show'd, alas! in each caress
Time had not made me love the less.

But let this pass—I'll whine no more,
Nor seek again an eastern shore;
The world befits a busy brain,—
I'll hie me to its haunts again.
But if, in some succeeding year,
When Britain's "May is in the sere,"
Thou hear'st of one whose deepening crimes
Suit with the sablest of the times,
Of one, whom love nor pity sways,
Nor hope of fame, nor good men's praise;
One, who in stern ambition's pride,
Perchance not blood shall turn aside;
One rank'd in some recording page
With the worst anarchs of the age,
Him wilt thou *know*—and *knowing* pause,
Nor with the *effect* forget the cause.

Newstead Abbey, *Oct.* 11, 1811.

ADDRESS, SPOKEN AT THE OPENING OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE,

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1812.

In one dread night our city saw, and sigh'd,
Bow'd to the dust, the Drama's tower of pride;
In one short hour beheld the blazing fane,
Apollo sink, and Shakspeare cease to reign.

Ye who beheld (oh! sight admired and mourn'd,
Whose radiance mock'd the ruin it adorn'd!)
Through clouds of fire the massive fragments riven, [heaven;
Like Israel's pillar, chase the night from
Saw the long column of revolving flames
Shake its red shadow o'er the startled Thames,
While thousands, throng'd around the burning dome, [home,
Shrank back appall'd, and trembled for their
As glared the volumed blaze, and ghastly shone [own,
The skies, with lightnings awful as their
Till blackening ashes and the lonely wall
Usurp'd the Muse's realm, and mark'd her fall;
Say—shall this new, nor less aspiring pile,
Rear'd where once rose the mightiest in our isle, [knew,
Know the same favor which the former
A shrine for Shakspeare—worthy him and *you?*

Yes—it shall be—the magic of that name
Defies the scythe of Time, the torch of Flame;
On the same spot still consecrates the scene,
And dies the Drama *be* where she hath *been:*
This fabric's birth attests the potent spell—
Indulge our honest pride, and say, *How well!*

As soars this fane to emulate the last,
Oh! might we draw our omens from the past,
Some hour propitious to our prayers may boast
Names such as hallow still the dome we lost.
On Drury first your Siddons' thrilling art
O'erwhelm'd the gentlest, storm'd the sternest heart.
On Drury, Garrick's latest laurels grew;
Here your last tears retiring Roscius drew,
Sigh'd his last thanks, and wept his last adieu:
But still for living wit the wreaths may bloom,
That only waste their odors o'er the tomb.
Such Drury claim'd and claims—nor you refuse
One tribute to revive his slumbering muse;
With garlands deck your own Menander's head, *
Nor hoard your honors idly for the dead!

Dear are the days which made our annals bright,
Ere Garrick fled, or Brinsley ceased to write,
Heirs to their labors, like all high-born heirs,
Vain of *our* ancestry as they of *theirs;* [glass
While thus Remembrance borrows Banquo's
To claim the sceptred shadows as they pass,
And we the mirror hold, where imaged shine
Immortal names, emblazon'd on our line,
Pause—ere their feebler offspring you condemn,
Reflect how hard the task to rival them!

Friends of the stage! to whom both Players and Plays
Must sue alike for pardon or for praise,

* Sheridan.

Whose judging voice and eye alone direct
The boundless power to cherish or reject;
E'er frivolity has led to fame,
And made us blush that you forbore to blame;
E'er the sinking stage could condescend
To soothe the sickly taste it dare not mend,
All past reproach may present scenes refute,
And censure, wisely loud, be justly mute!
Ah! since your fiat stamps the Drama's laws,
Forbear to mock us with misplaced applause;
So pride shall doubly nerve the actor's powers,
And reason's voice be echoed back by ours!

This greeting o'er, the ancient rule obey'd,
The Drama's homage by her herald paid,
Receive *our* welcome too, whose every tone
Springs from our hearts, and fain would win your own.
The curtain rises—may our stage unfold
Scenes not unworthy Drury's days of old!
Critons our judges, Nature for our guide,
Still may *we* please—long, long may *you* preside.

VERSES FOUND IN A SUMMER-HOUSE AT HALES-OWEN, IN WARWICKSHIRE.

WHEN Dryden's fool,* "unknowing what he sought,"
His hours in whistling spent, "for want of thought,"
This guiltless oaf his vacancy of sense
Supplied, and amply too, by innocence.
Did modern swains, possess'd of Cymon's powers,
In Cymon's manner waste their leisure hours,
Th' offended guests would not, with blushing, see
These fair green walks disgraced by infamy.
Severe the fate of modern fools, alas!
When vice and folly mark them as they pass,
Like noxious reptiles o'er the whiten'd wall,
The filth they leave still points out where they crawl.

REMEMBER THEE! REMEMBER THEE!

REMEMBER thee! remember thee!
Till Lethe quench life's burning stream,
Remorse and shame shall cling to thee,
And haunt thee like a feverish dream!

Remember thee! Ay, doubt it not,
Thy husband too shall think of thee:
By neither shalt thou be forgot,
Thou *false* to him, thou *fiend* to me!

PARENTHETICAL ADDRESS.

BY DR. PLAGIARY.

Half stolen," with acknowledgments, to be spoken in an inarticulate voice by Master P. at the opening of the next new theatre. Stolen parts marked with the inverted commas of quotation—thus "——".

'WHEN energising objects men pursue,"
Then Lord knows what is writ by Lord knows who.

"A modest monologue you here survey,"
Hiss'd from the theatre the "other day,"
As if Sir Fretful wrote "the slumberous" verse,
And gave his son "the rubbish" to rehearse.
"Yet at the thing you'd never be amazed,"
Knew you the rumpus which the author raised, [prest,"
"Nor even here your smiles would be re-
Knew you these lines—the badness of the best. [from Lucretius,)
"Flame! fire! and flame!" (words borrow'd
"Dread metaphors which open wounds" like issues! [away"
"And sleeping pangs awake—and—but
(Confound me if I know what next to say).
"Lo, Hope reviving re-expands her wings,"
And Master G— recites what Dr. Busby sings!— [pare,"
"If mighty things with small we may com-
(Translated from the grammar for the fair!)
Dramatic "spirit drives a conquering car,"
And burn'd poor Moscow like a tub of "tar."
"This spirit Wellington has shown in Spain,"
To furnish melodrames for Drury Lane.
"Another Marlborough points to Blenheim's story,"
And George and I will dramatise it for ye.
"In arts and sciences our isle hath shone"
(This deep discovery is mine alone).
"Oh British poesy, whose powers inspire"
My verse—or I'm a fool—and Fame's a liar,
"Thee we invoke, your sister arts implore"
With "smiles," and "lyres," and "pencils," and much more.
These, if we win the Graces, too, we gain
Disgraces, too! "inseparable train!"
"Three who have stolen their witching airs from Cupid"
(You all know what I mean, unless you're stupid);
"Harmonious throng" that I have kept *in petto*
Now to produce in a "divine *sestetto*" *!!*
"While Poesy," with these delightful doxies,
"Sustains her part" in all the "upper" boxes!
"Thus lifted gloriously, you'll soar along,"
Borne in the vast balloon of Busby's song;
"Shine in your farce, masque, scenery, and play"
(For this last line George had a holiday).
"Old Drury never, never soar'd so high,"
So says the manager, and so say I. [boast";
"But hold, you say, this self-complacent
Is this the poem which the public lost?
"True—true—that lowers at once our mounting pride";
But lo:—the papers print what you deride;
"'Tis ours to look on you—you hold the prize,"
Tis *twenty guineas*, as they advertise!
"A double blessing your rewards impart"—
I wish I had them, then, with all my heart.
"Our *twofold* feeling *owns* its twofold cause,"
Why son and I both beg for your applause.

* See Dryden's "Cymon and Iphigenia."

"When in your fostering beams you bid us live,"
My next subscription list shall say how much [you give!

TO TIME.

Time! on whose arbitrary wing
The varying hours must flag or fly,
Whose tardy winter, fleeting spring,
But drag or drive us on to die—

Hail thou! who on my birth bestow'd
Those boons to all that know thee known;
Yet better I sustain thy load,
For now I bear the weight alone.

I would not one fond heart should share
The bitter moments thou hast given;
And pardon thee, since thou couldst spare
All that I loved, to peace or heaven.

To them be joy or rest, on me
Thy future ills shall press in vain:
I nothing owe but years to thee,
A debt already paid in pain.

Yet ev'n that pain was some relief,
It felt, but still forgot thy power:
The active agony of grief
Retards, but never counts the hour.

In joy I've sigh'd to think thy flight
Would soon subside from swift to slow;
Thy cloud could overcast the light,
But could not add a night to woe;

For them, however drear and dark,
My soul was suited to thy sky;
One star alone shot forth a spark
To prove thee—not Eternity.

That beam hath sunk, and now thou art
A blank; a thing to count and curse,
Through each dull tedious trifling part,
Which all regret, yet all rehearse.

One scene ev'n thou canst not deform;
The limit of thy sloth or speed,
When future wanderers bear the storm
Which we shall sleep too sound to heed:

And I can smile to think how weak
Thine efforts shortly shall be shown,
When all the vengeance thou canst wreak
Must fall upon—a nameless stone.

TRANSLATION OF A ROMAIC LOVE SONG.

Ah! Love was never yet without
The pang, the agony, the doubt,
Which rends my heart with ceaseless sigh,
While day and night roll darkling by.

Without one friend to hear my woe,
I faint, I die beneath the blow.
That love had arrows well I knew;
Alas! I find them poison'd too.

Birds, yet in freedom, shun the net
Which love around your haunts hath set;
Or, circled by his fatal fire,
Your hearts shall burn, your hopes expire.

A bird of free and careless wing
Was I, through many a smiling spring;
But caught within the subtle snare,
I burn, and feebly flutter there.

Who ne'er have loved, and loved in vain,
Can neither feel nor pity pain,
The cold repulse, the look askance,
The lightning of Love's angry glance.

In flattering dreams I deem'd thee mine;
Now hope, and he who hoped, decline;
Like melting wax, or withering flower,
I feel my passion, and thy power.

My light of life! ah, tell me why
That pouting lip and alter'd eye?
My bird of love! my beauteous mate!
And art thou changed, and canst thou hate?

Mine eyes like wintry streams o'erflow:
What wretch with me would barter woe?
My bird! relent: one note could give
A charm, to bid thy lover live.

My curdling blood, my madd'ning brain,
In silent anguish I sustain;
And still thy heart, without partaking
One pang, exults—while mine is breaking.

Pour me the poison; fear not thou!
Thou canst not murder more than now:
I've lived to curse my natal day,
And Love, that thus can lingering slay.

My wounded soul, my bleeding breast,
Can patience preach thee into rest?
Alas! too late, I dearly know
That joy is harbinger of woe.

THOU ART NOT FALSE, BUT THOU ART FICKLE.

Thou art not false, but thou art fickle,
To those thyself so fondly sought;
The tears that thou hast forced to trickle
Are doubly bitter from that thought:
'Tis this which breaks the heart thou grievest.
Too well thou lov'st—too soon thou leavest.

The wholly false the heart despises,
And spurns deceiver and deceit;
But she who not a thought disguises,
Whose love is as sincere as sweet,—
When she can change who loved so truly,
It feels what mine has felt so newly.

To dream of joy and wake to sorrow,
Is doom'd to all who love or live;
And if, when conscious on the morrow,
We scarce our fancy can forgive,
That cheated us in slumber only,
To leave the waking soul more lonely,

What must they feel whom no false vision,
But truest, tenderest passion warm'd?
Sincere, but swift in sad transition;
As if a dream alone had charm'd?

Ah! sure such grief is fancy's scheming,
And all thy change can be but dreaming!

ON BEING ASKED WHAT WAS THE "ORIGIN OF LOVE."

THE "Origin of Love!"—Ah, why
That cruel question ask of me,
When thou may'st read in many an eye
He starts to life on seeing thee?

And shouldst thou seek his *end* to know:
My heart forebodes, my fears foresee,
He'll linger long in silent woe;
But live until I cease to be.

REMEMBER HIM WHOM PASSION'S POWER.

REMEMBER him whom passion's power
Severely, deeply, vainly proved:
Remember thou that dangerous hour,
When neither fell, though both were loved.

That yielding breast, that melting eye,
Too much invited to be bless'd;
That gentle prayer, that pleading sigh,
The wilder wish reprov'd, repress'd.

Oh! let me feel that all I lost
But saved thee all that conscience fears;
And blush for every pang it cost
To spare the vain remorse of years.

Yet think of this when many a tongue,
Whose busy accents whisper blame,
Would do the heart that loved thee wrong,
And brand a nearly blighted name.

Think that, whate'er to others, thou
Hast seen each selfish thought subdued:
I bless thy purer soul ev'n now,
Ev'n now in midnight solitude.

Oh, God! that we had met in time,
Our hearts as fond, thy hand more free;
When thou hadst loved without a crime,
And I been less unworthy thee!

Far may thy days, as heretofore,
From this our gaudy world be past!
And that too bitter moment o'er,
Oh! may such trial be thy last.

This heart, alas! perverted long,
Itself destroy'd might thee destroy;
To meet thee in the glittering throng,
Would wake Presumption's hope of joy.

Then to the things whose bliss or woe,
Like mine, is wild and worthless all,
That world resign—such scenes forego,
Where those who feel must surely fall.

Thy youth, thy charms, thy tenderness,
Thy soul from long seclusion pure;
From what ev'n here hath pass'd, may guess
What there thy bosom must endure.

Oh! pardon that imploring tear,
Since not by virtue shed in vain,
My frenzy drew from eyes so dear;
For me they shall not weep again.

Though long and mournful must it be,
The thought that we no more may meet;
Yet I deserve the stern decree,
And almost deem the sentence sweet.

Still, had I loved thee less, my heart
Had then less sacrificed to thine:
It felt not half so much to part
As if its guilt had made thee mine.

IMPROMPTU, IN REPLY TO A FRIEND.

WHEN, from the heart where sorrow sits,
Her dusky shadow mounts too high,
And o'er the changing aspect flits,
And clouds the brow, or fills the eye;
Heed not that gloom, which soon shall sink:
My thoughts their dungeon know too well;
Back to my breast the wanderers shrink,
And droop within their silent cell.

SONNETS TO GENEVRA.

I.

THINE eyes' blue tenderness, thy long fair hair,
And the wan lustre of thy features—caught
From contemplation—where serenely wrought, [despair—
Seems Sorrow's softness charmed from its
Have thrown such speaking sadness in thine air, [fraught
That—but I know thy blessed bosom
With mines of unalloy'd and stainless thought— [care.
I should have deem'd thee doom'd to earthly
With such an aspect, by his colors blent,
When from his beauty-breathing pencil born
(Except that *thou* hast nothing to repent),
The Magdalen of Guido saw the morn—
Such seem'st thou—but how much more excellent! [tue scorn.
With nought Remorse can claim—nor Vir-

II.

THY cheek is pale with thought, but not from woe:
And yet so lovely, that if Mirth could flush
Its rose of whiteness with the brightest blush,
My heart would wish away that ruder glow:
And dazzle not thy deep blue eyes—but, oh!
While gazing on them sterner eyes will gush,
And into mine my mother's weakness rush,
Soft as the last drops round heaven's airy bow.
For, through thy long dark lashes low depending,
The soul of melancholy Gentleness
Gleams like a seraph from the sky descending,
Above all pain, yet pitying all distress; [ing,
At once such majesty with sweetness blend-
I worship more, but cannot love thee less.

FROM THE PORTUGUESE.

"TU MI CHAMAS."

In moments to delight devoted,
"My life!" with tenderest tone you cry;
Dear words! on which my heart had doted,
If youth could neither fade nor die.

To death even hours like these must roll,
Ah! then repeat those accents never;
Or change "my life!" into "my soul!"
Which, like my love, exists forever.

ANOTHER VERSION.

You call me still your *life*—Oh! change the word—
Life is as transient as the inconstant sigh:
Say rather I'm your soul; more just that name,
For, like the soul, my love can never die.

FROM THE FRENCH.

Ægle, beauty and poet, has two little crimes;
She makes her own face, and does not make her rhymes.

WINDSOR POETICS.

LINES COMPOSED ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT BEING SEEN STANDING BETWEEN THE COFFINS OF HENRY VIII. AND CHARLES I., IN THE ROYAL VAULT AT WINDSOR.

Famed for contemptuous breach of sacred ties,
By headless Charles see heartless Henry lies;
Between them stands another sceptred thing—
It moves, it reigns—in all but name, a king;
Charles to his people, Henry to his wife,
—In him the double tyrant starts to life:
Justice and death have mixed their dust in vain,
Each royal vampire wakes to life again.
Ah, what can tombs avail, since these disgorge
The blood and dust of both—to mould a George!

THE DEVIL'S DRIVE;

AN UNFINISHED RHAPSODY.

The Devil return'd to hell by two,
And he stay'd at home till five; [*ragoût*,
When he dined on some homicides done in
And a rebel or so in an *Irish* stew,
And sausages made of a self-slain Jew—
And bethought himself what next to do,
"And," quoth he, "I'll take a drive.
I walk'd in the morning, I'll ride to-night;
In darkness my children take most delight,
And I'll see how my favorites thrive.

"And what shall I ride in?" quoth Lucifer then—
"If I follow'd my taste, indeed,
I should mount in a wagon of wounded men,
And smile to see them bleed.
But these will be furnish'd again and again,
And at present my purpose is speed;
To see my manor as much as I may, [away.
And watch that no souls shall be poach'd

"I have a state-coach at Carlton House,
A chariot in Seymour Place;
But they're lent to two friends, who make me
By driving my favorite pace: [amends,
And they handle their reins with such a grace,
I have something for both at the end of their race.

"So now for the earth to take my chance:"
Then up to the earth sprung he;
And making a jump from Moscow to France,
He stepp'd across the sea,
And rested his hoof on a turnpike road,
No very great way from a bishop's abode.

But first as he flew, I forgot to say
That he hover'd a moment upon his way,
To look upon Leipsic plain;
And so sweet to his eye was its sulphury glare,
And so soft to his ear was the cry of despair,
That he perch'd on a mountain of slain;
And he gazed with delight from its growing height,
Nor often on earth had he seen such a sight,
Nor his work done half as well: [dead,
For the field ran so red with the blood of the
That it blush'd like the waves of hell!
Then loudly, and wildly, and long laugh'd he:
"Methinks they have here little need of *me!*"

* * * * *

But the softest note that soothed his ear
Was the sound of a widow sighing;
And the sweetest sight was the icy tear,
Which horror froze in the blue eye clear
Of a maid by her lover lying—
As round her fell her long fair hair; [air,
And she looked to heaven with that frenzied
Which seemed to ask if a God were there!
And, stretch'd by the wall of a ruin'd hut,
With its hollow cheek, and eyes half shut,
A child of famine dying: [done,
And the carnage begun when resistance is
And the fall of the vainly flying!

* * * * *

But the Devil has reach'd our cliffs so white,
And what did he there, I pray?
If his eyes were good, he but saw by night
What we see every day;
But he made a tour, and kept a journal
Of all the wondrous sights nocturnal,
And he sold it in shares to the *Men* of the *Row*, [though!
Who bid pretty well—but they *cheated* him,

The Devil first saw, as he thought, the *Mail*,
Its coachman and its coat;
So instead of a pistol he cock'd his tail,
And seized him by the throat:
"Aha!" quoth he, "what have we here?
'Tis a new barouche, and an ancient peer!"

o he sat him on his box again,
And bade him have no fear,
ut be true to his club, and stanch to his rein,
His brothel, and his beer ;
Next to seeing a lord at the council board,
I would rather see him here."

* * * * *

he Devil gat next to Westminster,
And he turn'd to "the room" of the Commons ;
ut he heard, as he purposed to enter in there,
That "the Lords" had received a summons ;
nd he thought, as a "*quondam* aristocrat,"
le might peep at the peers, though to *hear* them were flat ;
nd he walk'd up the House so like one of our own, [throne.
hat they say that he stood pretty near the

le saw the Lord Liverpool seemingly wise,
The Lord Westmoreland certainly silly,
nd Johnny of Norfolk—a man of some size—
And Chatham, so like his friend Billy ;
nd he saw the tears in Lord Eldon's eyes,
Because the Catholics would *not* rise,
In spite of his prayers and his prophecies ;
nd he heard—which sent Satan himself a staring— [*swearing.*
certain Chief Justice say something like
nd the Devil was shock'd—and quoth he,
"I must go, – [low :
or I find we have much better manners below
f thus he harangues when he passes my border, [order."
shall hint to friend Moloch to call him to

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

SPEAK not, I trace not, I breathe not thy name ; [the fame ;
here is grief in the sound, there is guilt in
ut the tear which now burns on my cheek may impart [of heart.
he deep thoughts that dwell in that silence

oo brief for our passion, too long for our peace, [terness cease?
Were those hours—can their joy or their bit-
We repent, we abjure, we will break from our chain,—
We will part, we will fly to—unite it again !

Oh ! thine be the gladness, and mine be the guilt ! [wilt ;
Forgive me, adored one !—forsake if thou
But the heart which is thine shall expire undebased, [may'st.
And *man* shall not break it—whatever *thou*

And stern to the haughty, but humble to thee,
This soul in its bitterest blackness shall be ;
And our days seem as swift, and our moments more sweet, [feet.
With thee by my side, than with worlds at our

One sigh of thy sorrow, one look of thy love,
Shall turn me or fix, shall reward or reprove ;
And the heartless may wonder at all I resign—
Thy lips shall reply, not to them, but to mine.

TO LORD THURLOW.

"I lay my branch of laurel down
Then thus to form Apollo's crown,
Let every other bring his own."
—Lord Thurlow's lines to Mr. Rogers.

"*I lay my branch of laurel down.*"

Thou "lay thy branch of *laurel* down !"
Why, what thou'st stole is not enow ;
And, were it lawfully thine own,
Does Rogers want it most, or thou?
Keep to thyself thy wither'd bough,
Or send it back to Doctor Donne :
Were justice done to both, I trow,
He'd have but little, and thou—none.

"*Then thus to form Apollo's crown.*"

A crown ! why, twist it how you will,
Thy chaplet must be foolscap still.
When next you visit Delphi's town,
Inquire amongst your fellow-lodgers,
They'll tell you Phœbus gave his crown,
Some years before your birth, to Rogers.

"*Let every other bring his own.*"

When coals to Newcastle are carried,
And owls sent to Athens, as wonders,
From his spouse when the Regent's unmarried,
Or Liverpool weeps o'er his blunders ;
When Tories and Whigs cease to quarrel,
When Castlereagh's wife has an heir,
Then Rogers shall ask us for laurel,
And thou shalt have plenty to spare.

TO THOMAS MOORE.

WRITTEN THE EVENING BEFORE HIS VISIT TO MR. LEIGH HUNT IN HORSEMONGER LANE GAOL, MAY 19, 1813.

Oh you, who in all names can tickle the town,
Anacreon, Tom Little, Tom Moore, or Tom Brown, [most brag,
For hang me if I know of which you may
Your Quarto two-pounds, or your Two-penny Post Bag ;

* * * * *

But now to my letter—to *yours* 'tis an answer— [sir,
To-morrow be with me, as soon as you can,
All ready and dress'd for proceeding to spunge on [geon—
(According to compact) the wit in the dun-
Pray Phœbus at length our political malice
May not get us lodgings within the same palace !
I suppose that to-night you're engaged with some codgers, [Rogers ;
And for Sotheby's Blues have deserted Sam
And I, though with cold I have nearly my death got, [Heathcote ;
Must put on my breeches, and wait on the
But to-morrow, at four, we will both play the *Scurra*,
And you'll be Catullus, the Regent Mamurra.

ADDRESS

INTENDED TO HAVE BEEN RECITED AT THE CALEDONIAN MEETING, 1814.

Who hath not glow'd above the page where fame
Hath fix'd high Caledon's unconquer'd name :
The mountain land which spurn'd the Roman chain,
And baffled back the fiery-crested Dane :
Whose bright claymore and hardihood of hand
No foe could tame—no tyrant could command!
That race is gone—but still their children breathe, [wreath :
And glory crowns them with redoubled
O'er Gael and Saxon mingling banners shine,
And, England ! add their stubborn strength to thine. [free,
The blood which flow'd with Wallace flows as
But now 'tis only shed for fame and thee !
Oh ! pass not by the northern veteran's claim,
But give support—the world hath given him fame !

The humbler ranks, the lowly brave, who bled
While cheerly following where the mighty led—
Who sleep beneath the undistinguish'd sod
Where happier comrades in their triumph trod,
To us bequeath—'tis all their fate allows—
The sireless offspring and the lonely spouse :
She on high Albyn's dusky hills may raise
The tearful eye in melancholy gaze ;
Or view, while shadowy auguries disclose,
The Highland seer's anticipated woes,
The bleeding phantom of each martial form,
Dim in the cloud, or darkling in the storm,
While sad she chants the solitary song,
The soft lament for him who tarries long—
For him, whose distant relics vainly crave
The coronach's wild requiem to the brave !

'Tis heaven—not man—must charm away the woe, [flow,
Which bursts when Nature's feelings newly
Yet tenderness and time may rob the tear
Of half its bitterness, for one so dear ;
A nation's gratitude perchance may spread
A thornless pillow for the widow's head ;
May lighten well her heart's maternal care,
And wean from penury the soldier's heir.

CONDOLATORY ADDRESS

TO SARAH COUNTESS OF JERSEY, ON THE PRINCE REGENT'S RETURNING HER PICTURE TO MRS. LEE.

When the vain triumph of the imperial lord,
Whom servile Rome obey'd, and yet abhorr'd,
Gave to the vulgar gaze each glorious bust,
That left a likeness of the brave or just ;
What most admired each scrutinizing eye
Of all that deck'd that passing pageantry ?
What spread from face to face that wondering air ?
The thought of Brutus—for his was not there !
That absence proved his worth,—that absence fix'd
His memory on the longing mind, unmix'd ;
And more decreed his glory to endure,
Than all a gold Colossus could secure.

If thus, fair Jersey, our desiring gaze
Search for thy form, in vain and mute amaze,
Amidst those pictured charms, whose loveliness, [less ;
Bright though they be, thine own had render'd
If he, that vain old man, whom truth admits
Heir of his father's crown, and of his wits,
If his corrupted eye, and wither'd heart,
Could with thy gentle image bear depart ;
That tasteless shame be *his*, and ours the grief
To gaze on Beauty's band without its chief :
Yet comfort still one selfish thought imparts,
We lose the portrait, but preserve our hearts.

What can his vaulted gallery now disclose ?
A garden with all flowers—except the rose ;—
A fount that only wants its living stream !
A night, with every star, save Dian's beam.
Lost to our eyes the present forms shall be,
That turn from tracing them to dream of thee ;
And more on that recall'd resemblance pause,
Than all he *shall* not force on our applause.

Long may thy yet meridian lustre shine,
With all that Virtue asks of Homage thine :
The symmetry of youth, the grace of mien,
The eye that gladdens, and the brow serene ;
The glossy darkness of that clustering hair,
Which shades, yet shows that forehead more than fair ! [throws
Each glance that wins us, and the life that
A spell which will not let our looks repose,
But turn to gaze again, and find anew
Some charm that well rewards another view.
These are not lessen'd, these are still as bright,
Albeit too dazzling for a dotard's sight ;
And those must wait till every charm is gone,
To please the paltry heart that pleases none ;—
That dull cold sensualist, whose sickly eye
In envious dimness pass'd thy portrait by ;
Who rack'd his little spirit to combine
Its hate of *Freedom's* loveliness and *thine*.

FRAGMENT OF AN EPISTLE TO THOMAS MOORE.

"What say *I*?"—not a syllable further in prose ; [so here goes!
I'm your man "of all measures," dear Tom,—
Here goes for a swim on the stream of old Time, [rhyme.
On those buoyant supporters, the bladders of
If our weight breaks them down and we sink in the flood, [mud,
We are smother'd, at least, in respectable
Where the Divers of Bathos lie drown'd in a heap, [sleep ;—
And Southey's last Pæan has pillow'd his
That "Felo de se," who, half drunk with his malmsey,

alk'd out of his depth and was lost in a calm
sea,
nging "Glory to God" in a spick and span
stanza, [never man saw.
he like (since Tom Sternhold was choked)

The papers have told you, no doubt, of the
fusses, [Russes,—
he fêtes, and the gapings to get at these
f his Majesty's suite, up from coachman to
Hetman, [great man.
nd what dignity decks the flat face of the
saw him last week, at two balls and a
party,— [hearty,
or a prince, his demeanor was rather too
ou know *we* are used to quite different
graces.

* * * * *

The Czar's look, I own, was much brighter
and brisker,
ut then he is sadly deficient in whisker;
nd wore but a starless blue coat, and in
Kersey- [the Jersey,
ere breeches whisk'd round, in a waltz with
ho lovely as ever, seem'd just as delighted
ith Majesty's presence as those she invited.

* * * * *
* * * * *

ELEGIAC STANZAS.

IN THE DEATH OF SIR PETER PARKER, BART.

HERE is a tear for all that die,
A mourner o'er the humblest grave;
ut nations swell the funeral cry,
And triumph weeps above the brave.

or them is Sorrow's purest sigh
O'er ocean's heaving bosom sent:
n vain their bones unburied lie,
All earth becomes their monument!

tomb is theirs on every page,
An epitaph on every tongue:
he present hours, the future age,
For them bewail, to them belong.

or them the voice of festal mirth
Grows hush'd, *their name* the only sound;
hile deep Remembrance pours to Worth
The goblet's tributary round.

theme to crowds that knew them not;
Lamented by admiring foes,
ho would not share their glorious lot?
Who would not die the death they chose?

nd, gallant Parker! thus enshrined
Thy life, thy fall, thy fame shall be;
nd early valor, glowing, find
A model in thy memory.

ut there are breasts that bleed with thee
In woe, that glory cannot quell;
nd shuddering hear of victory,
Where one so dear, so dauntless, fell.

here shall they turn to mourn thee less?
When cease to hear thy cherish'd name?
Time cannot teach forgetfulness,
While Grief's full heart is fed by Fame.

Alas! for them, though not for thee,
They cannot choose but weep the more;
Deep for the dead the grief must be,
Who ne'er gave cause to mourn before.

TO BELSHAZZAR.

BELSHAZZAR! from the banquet turn,
Nor in thy sensual fulness fall;
Behold! while yet before thee burn
The graven words, the glowing wall.
Many a despot men miscall
Crown'd and anointed from on high;
But thou, the weakest, worst of all—
Is it not written, thou must die?

Go! dash the roses from thy brow—
Grey hairs but poorly wreath with them;
Youth's garlands misbecome thee now,
More than thy very diadem,
Where thou hast tarnish'd every gem:—
Then throw the worthless bauble by,
Which, worn by thee, ev'n slaves contemn;
And learn like better men to die!

Oh! early in the balance weigh'd,
And ever light of word and worth,
Whose soul expired ere youth decay'd,
And left thee but a mass of earth.
To see thee moves the scorner's mirth:
But tears in Hope's averted eye
Lament that even thou hadst birth—
Unfit to govern, live, or die.

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

THERE be none of Beauty's daughters
With a magic like thee;
And like music on the waters
Is thy sweet voice to me:
When, as if its sound were causing
The charm'd ocean's pausing,
The waves lie still and gleaming,
And the lull'd winds seem dreaming:

And the midnight moon is weaving
Her bright chain o'er the deep;
Whose breast is gently heaving,
As an infant's sleep:
So the spirit bows before thee,
To listen and adore thee;
With a full but soft emotion,
Like the swell of Summer's ocean.

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

"O Lachrymarum fons, tenero sacros
Ducentium ortus ex animo: quater
Felix! in imo qui scatentem
Pectore te, pia Nympha, sensit."
GRAY'S "Pœmata."

THERE'S not a joy the world can give like that
it takes away, [feeling's dull decay;
When the glow of early thought declines in
'Tis not on youth's smooth cheek the blush
alone, which fades so fast,
But the tender bloom of heart is gone, ere
youth itself be past.

Then the few whose spirits float above the wreck of happiness
Are driven o'er the shoals of guilt or ocean of excess:
The magnet of their course is gone, or only points in vain
The shore to which their shiver'd sail shall never stretch again.

Then the mortal coldness of the soul like death itself comes down;
It cannot feel for others' woes, it dare not dream its own;
That heavy chill has frozen o'er the fountain of our tears,
And though the eye may sparkle still, 'tis where the ice appears.

Though wit may flash from fluent lips, and mirth distract the breast,
Through midnight hours that yield no more their former hope of rest; [wreath,
'Tis but as ivy-leaves around the ruin'd turret
All green and wildly fresh without, but worn and grey beneath.

Oh! could I feel as I have felt—or be what I have been,
Or weep as I could once have wept, o'er many a vanish'd scene;
As springs in deserts found seem sweet, all brackish though they be,
So midst the wither'd waste of life, those tears would flow to me.

DARKNESS.

I HAD a dream, which was not all a dream,
The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the stars
Did wander darkling in the eternal space,
Rayless, and pathless; and the icy earth [air;
Swung blind and blackening in the moonless
Morn came and went—and came, and brought no day,
And men forgot their passions in the dread
Of this their desolation; and all hearts
Were chill'd into a selfish prayer for light:
And they did live by watchfires—and the thrones,
The palaces of crowned kings—the huts,
The habitations of all things which dwell,
Were burnt for beacons; cities were consumed, [homes
And men were gathered round their blazing
To look once more into each other's face;
Happy were those who dwelt within the eye
Of the volcanoes, and their mountain-torch:
A fearful hope was all the world contained;
Forests were set on fire—but hour by hour
They fell and faded—and the crackling trunks
Extinguish'd with a crash—and all was black.
The brows of men by the despairing light
Wore an unearthly aspect, as by fits
The flashes fell upon them; some lay down
And hid their eyes and wept; and some did rest [smiled;
Their chins upon their clenched hands and
And others hurried to and fro, and fed
Their funeral piles with fuel, and look'd up
With mad disquietude on the dull sky,
The pall of a past world; and then again
With curses cast them down upon the dust,
And gnash'd their teeth and howl'd: the wild birds shriek'd,
And, terrified, did flutter on the ground.
And flap their useless wings; the wildest brutes
Came tame and tremulous; and vipers crawl'd
And twined themselves among the multitude,
Hissing, but stingless—they were slain for food:
And War, which for a moment was no more,
Did glut himself again:—a meal was bought
With blood, and each sate sullenly apart
Gorging himself in gloom: no love was left;
All earth was but one thought—and that was death
Immediate and inglorious; and the pang
Of famine fed upon all entrails—men [flesh;
Died, and their bones were tombless as their
The meagre by the meagre were devour'd,
Even dogs assail'd their masters, all save one,
And he was faithful to a corse, and kept
The birds and beasts and famish'd men at bay,
Till hunger clung them, or the dropping dead
Lured their lank jaws; himself sought out no food,
But with a piteous and perpetual moan,
And a quick desolate cry, licking the hand
Which answer'd not with a caress—he died.
The crowd was famish'd by degrees; but two
Of an enormous city did survive,
And they were enemies: they met beside
The dying embers of an altar-place,
Where had been heap'd a mass of holy things
For an unholy usage; they raked up,
And shivering scraped with their cold skeleton hands
The feeble ashes, and their feeble breath
Blew for a little life, and made a flame
Which was a mockery; then they lifted up
Their eyes as it grew lighter, and beheld
Each other's aspects—saw, and shriek'd, and died—
Ev'n of their mutual hideousness they died,
Unknowing who he was upon whose brow
Famine had written Fiend. The world was void,
The populous, and the powerful was a lump,
Seasonless, herbless, treeless, manless, lifeless,
A lump of death—a chaos of hard clay.
The rivers, lakes, and ocean all stood still,
And nothing stirr'd within their silent depths;
Ships sailorless lay rotting on the sea,
And their masts fell down piecemeal; as they dropp'd,
They slept on the abyss without a surge—
The waves were dead; the tides were in their grave,
The Moon, their mistress, had expired before;
The winds were wither'd in the stagnant air,
And the clouds perish'd; Darkness had no need
Of aid from them—She was the Universe!

MONODY ON THE DEATH OF THE RIGHT HON R. B. SHERIDAN.

SPOKEN AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

HEN the last sunshine of expiring day
n summer's twilight weeps itself away,
ho hath not felt the softness of the hour
nk on the heart, as dew along the flower?
ith a pure feeling which absorbs and awes
hile nature makes that melancholy pause,
er breathing moment on the bridge where Time
f light and darkness forms an arch sublime,
ho hath not shared that calm, so still and deep, [but weep,
he voiceless thought which would not speak
holy concord, and a bright regret,
glorious sympathy with suns that set?
is not harsh sorrow, but a tenderer woe,
ameless, but dear to gentle hearts below,
elt without bitterness, but full and clear,
sweet dejection, a transparent tear,
nmix'd with worldly grief or selfish stain,
hed without shame, and secret without pain.

Even as the tenderness that hour instils
hen summer's day declines along the hills,
o feels the fulness of our heart and eyes,
hen all of Genius which can perish dies.
mighty spirit is eclipsed—a power [hour
ath pass'd from day to darkness—to whose
f light no likeness is bequeath'd—no name,
ocus at once of all the rays of Fame!
he flash of Wit, the bright Intelligence,
he beam of Song, the blaze of Eloquence,
et with their Sun, but still have left behind
he enduring produce of immortal Mind;
ruits of a genial morn, and glorious noon,
deathless part of him who died too soon.
ut small that portion of the wondrous whole,
hese sparkling segments of that circling soul,
hich all embraced, and lighten'd over all,
o cheer, to pierce, to please, or to appal.
rom the charm'd council to the festive board,
f human feelings the unbounded lord;
whose acclaim the loftiest voices vied,
he praised, the proud, who made his praise their pride.
hen the loud cry of trampled Hindostan
rose to Heaven in her appeal from man,
is was the thunder, his the avenging rod,
he wrath—the delegated voice of God!
hich shook the nations through his lips, and blazed, [praised.
ill vanquish'd senates trembled as they

And here, oh! here, where yet all young and
he gay creations of his spirit charm, [warm,
he matchless dialogue, the deathless wit,
hich knew not what it was to intermit;
he glowing portraits, fresh from life, that bring [spring;
ome to our hearts the truth from which they
hese wondrous beings of his fancy, wrought
o fulness by the fiat of his thought,
ere in their first abode you still may meet,
Bright with the hues of his Promethean heat;
A halo of the light of other days,
Which still the splendor of its orb betrays.

But should there be to whom the fatal blight
Of failing Wisdom yields a base delight,
Men who exult when minds of heavenly tone
Jar in the music which was born their own,
Still let them pause—ah! little do they know
That what to them seemed Vice might be but Woe.
Hard is his fate on whom the public gaze
Is fix'd forever to detract or praise;
Repose denies her requiem to his name,
And Folly loves the martyrdom of Fame.
The secret enemy, whose sleepless eye
Stands sentinel, accuser, judge, and spy;
The foe, the fool, the jealous, and the vain,
The envious, who but breathe in others' pain—
Behold the host! delighting to deprave,
Who track the steps of glory to the grave,
Watch every fault that daring Genius owes
Half to the ardor which its birth bestows,
Distort the truth, accumulate the lie,
And pile the pyramid of Calumny!
These are his portion—but if join'd to these
Gaunt Poverty should league with deep Dis-
If the high spirit must forget to soar, [tress;
And stoop to strive with Misery at the door,
To soothe Indignity—and face to face
Meet sordid rage, and wrestle with Disgrace;
To find in Hope but the renewed caress,
The serpent-fold of further Faithlessness:—
If such may be the ills which men assail,
What marvel if at last the mightiest fail?
Breasts to whom all the strength of feeling's given [heaven,
Bear hearts electric—charged with fire from
Black with the rude collision, inly torn,
By clouds surrounded, and on whirlwinds borne, [nurst
Driven o'er the lowering atmosphere that
Thoughts which have turned to thunder—scorch, and burst.

But far from us and from our mimic scene
Such things should be—if such have ever been;
Ours be the gentler wish, the kinder task,
To give the tribute Glory need not ask, [mite
To mourn the vanish'd beam, and add our
Of praise in payment of a long delight.
Ye Orators! whom yet our councils yield,
Mourn for the veteran Hero of your field!
The worthy rival of the wondrous *Three*,*
Whose words were sparks of Immortality!
Ye Bards! to whom the Drama's Muse is dear,
He was your master—emulate him *here!*
Ye men of wit and social eloquence,
He was your brother—bear his ashes hence!
While powers of mind almost of boundless range,
Complete in kind, as various in their change;
While Eloquence, Wit, Poesy, and Mirth,

* Fox, Pitt, Burke.

That humbler Harmonist of care on Earth,
Survive within our souls—while lives our sense
Of pride in Merit's proud pre-eminence,
Long shall we seek his likeness, long in vain,
And turn to all of him which may remain,
Sighing that Nature formed but one such man,
And broke the die—in moulding Sheridan!

CHURCHILL'S GRAVE.

A FACT LITERALLY RENDERED.

I stood beside the grave of him who blazed
The comet of a season, and I saw
The humblest of all sepulchres, and gazed
With not the less of sorrow and of awe
On that neglected turf and quiet stone,
With name no clearer than the names unknown,
Which lay unread around it; and I ask'd
The Gardener of that ground, why it might be [task'd,
That for this plant strangers his memory
Through the thick deaths of half a century?
And thus he answer'd: "Well, I do not know
Why frequent travellers turn to pilgrims so;
He died before my day of Sextonship,
And I had not the digging of this grave."
And is this all? I thought—and do we rip
The veil of Immortality, and crave
I know not what of honor and of light,
Through unborn ages, to endure this blight,
So soon, and so successless? As I said,
The Architect of all on which we tread,
For Earth is but a tombstone, did essay
To extricate remembrance from the clay,
Whose minglings might confuse a Newton's thought,
Were it not that all life must end in one,
Of which we are but dreamers;—as he caught
As 'twere the twilight of a former Sun,
Thus spoke he: "I believe the man of whom
You wot, who lies in this selected tomb,
Was a most famous writer in his day, [way
And therefore travellers step from out their
To pay him honor,—and myself what'er
Your honor pleases." Then most pleased I
From out my pocket's avaricious nook [shook
Some certain coins of silver, which as 'twere
Perforce I gave this man, though I could spare
So much but inconveniently:—Ye smile,
I see ye, ye profane ones! all the while, [tell.
Because my homely phrase the truth would
You are the fools, not I; for I did dwell
With a deep thought, and with a soften'd eye,
On that old Sexton's natural homily,
In which there was Obscurity and Fame—
The Glory and the Nothing of a Name.

PROMETHEUS.

Titan! to whose immortal eyes
The sufferings of mortality,
Seen in their sad reality,
Were not as things that gods despise,
What was thy pity's recompense?
A silent suffering, and intense;
The rock, the vulture, and the chain,
All that the proud can feel of pain,
The agony they do not show,
The suffocating sense of woe,
Which speaks but in its loneliness,
And then is jealous lest the sky
Should have a listener, nor will sigh
Until his voice is echoless.

Titan! to thee the strife was given
Between the suffering and the will,
Which torture where they cannot kill;
And in the inexorable Heaven,
And the deaf tyranny of Fate,
The ruling principle of Hate,
Which for its pleasure doth create
The things it may annihilate,
Refused thee even the boon to die:
The wretched gift Eternity
Was thine—and thou hast borne it well.
All that the Thunderer wrung from thee
Was but the menace which flung back
On him the torments of thy rack;
The fate thou didst so well foresee,
But would not to appease him tell;
And in thy Silence was his Sentence,
And in his soul a vain repentance,
And evil dread so ill dissembled
That in his hands the lightnings trembled.

Thy godlike crime was to be kind,
To render with thy precepts less
The sum of human wretchedness,
And strengthen Man with his own mind;
But baffled as thou wert from high,
Still in thy patient energy,
In the endurance, and repulse
Of thine impenetrable Spirit [vulse,
Which Earth and Heaven could not con-
A mighty lesson we inherit:
Thou art a symbol and a sign
To mortals of their fate and force;
Like thee Man is in part divine,
A troubled stream from a pure source;
And Man in portions can foresee
His own funereal destiny;
His wretchedness, and his resistance,
And his sad unallied existence:
To which his Spirit may oppose
Itself—and equal to all woes,
And in a firm will, and a deep sense
Which even in torture can descry
Its own concentred recompense,
Triumphant where it dares defy,
And making Death a Victory!

A FRAGMENT.

Could I remount the river of my years,
To the first fountain of our smiles and tears,
I would not trace again the stream of hours
Between their outworn banks of wither'd flowers,
But bid it flow as now—until it glides
Into the number of the nameless tides.

* * * * *

What is this Death?—a quiet of the heart?
he whole of that of which we are a part?
Or life is but a vision—what I see
f all that lives alone is life to me;
nd being so—the absent are the dead,
ho haunt us from tranquillity, and spread
dreary shroud around us, and invest
ith sad remembrances our hours of rest.

The absent are the dead—for they are cold,
nd ne'er can be what once we did behold;
nd they are changed, and cheerless,—or if
yet
he unforgotten do not all forget,
ince thus divided—equal must it be
f the deep barrier be of earth, or sea;
may be both—but one day end it must,
n the dark union of insensate dust.

The under-earth inhabitants—are they
ut mingled millions decomposed to clay?
he ashes of a thousand ages spread
herever man has trodden or shall tread?
r do they in their silent cities dwell
ach in his incommunicative cell?
r have they their own language? and a sense
f breathless being?—darken'd and intense
s midnight in her solitude?—O Earth!
here are the past?—and wherefore had they
he dead are thy inheritors—and we [birth?
ut bubbles on thy surface: and the key
f thy profundity is in the grave,
he ebon portal of thy peopled cave,
here I would walk in spirit, and behold
ur elements resolved to things untold,
nd fathom-hidden wonders, and explore
he essence of great bosoms now no more.

SONNET TO LAKE LEMAN;

OUSSEAU—Voltaire—our Gibbon—and De
Staël— [shore, *
Leman! these names are worthy of thy
hy shore of names like these! wert thou no
more,
heir memory thy resemblance would recall:
o them thy banks were lovely as to all,
But they have made them lovelier, for the
lore
Of mighty minds doth hallow in the core
f human hearts the ruin of a wall [by *thee*,
Where dwelt the wise and wondrous; but
ow much more, Lake of Beauty! do we feel,
In sweetly gliding o'er thy crystal sea,
he wild glow of that not ungentle zeal,
Which of the heirs of immortality
s proud, and makes the breath of glory real!

A VERY MOURNFUL BALLAD

N THE SIEGE AND CONQUEST OF ALHAMA,
Which, in the Arabic language, is to the following purport.

THE Moorish King rides up and down
Through Granada's royal town;
From Elvira's gates to those
Of Bivarambla on he goes.
Woe is me, Alhama!

Letters to the monarch tell
How Alhama's city fell;
In the fire the scroll he threw,
And the messenger he slew.
Woe is me, Alhama!

He quits his mule, and mounts his horse,
And through the street directs his course;
Through the street of Zacatin
To the Alhambra spurring in.
Woe is me, Alhama!

When the Alhambra walls he gain'd,
On the moment he ordain'd
That the trumpet straight should sound
With the silver clarion round.
Woe is me, Alhama!

And when the hollow drums of war,
Beat the loud alarm afar,
That the Moors of town and plain
Might answer to the martial strain.
Woe is me, Alhama!

Then the Moors, by this aware
That bloody Mars recall'd them there,
One by one, and two by two,
To a mighty squadron grew.
Woe is me, Alhama!

Out then spake an aged Moor
In these words the king before,
"Wherefore call on us, O king?
What may mean this gathering?"
Woe is me, Alhama!

"Friends! ye have, alas! to know
Of a most disastrous blow;
That the Christians, stern and bold,
Have obtain'd Alhama's hold."
Woe is me, Alhama!

Out then spake old Alfaqui,
With his beard so white to see;
"Good King! thou art justly served,
Good King! this thou hast deserved.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"By thee were slain, in evil hour,
The Abencerrage, Granada's flower;
And strangers were received by thee
Of Cordova the Chivalry.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"And for this, O King! is sent
On thee a double chastisement:
Thee and thine, thy crown and realm,
One last wreck shall overwhelm.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"He who holds no laws in awe,
He must perish by the law;
And Granada must be won,
And thyself with her undone."
Woe is me, Alhama!

Fire flash'd from out the old Moor's eyes,
The Monarch's wrath began to rise,

* Geneva, Ferney Copet, Lausanne.

Because he answer'd, and because
He spake exceeding well of laws.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"There is no law to say such things
As may disgust the ear of kings":
Thus, snorting with his choler, said
The Moorish King, and doom'd him dead.
Woe is me, Alhama!

Moor Alfaqui! Moor Alfaqui!
Though thy beard so hoary be,
The King has sent to have thee seized,
For Alhama's loss displeased.
Woe is me, Alhama!

And to fix thy head upon
High Alhambra's loftiest stone;
That this for thee should be the law,
And others tremble when they saw.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"Cavalier, and man of worth!
Let these words of mine go forth!
Let the Moorish Monarch know,
That to him I nothing owe.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"But on my soul Alhama weighs,
And on my inmost spirit preys;
And if the King his land hath lost,
Yet others may have lost the most.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"Sires have lost their children, wives
Their lords, and valiant men their lives;
One what best his love might claim
Hath lost, another wealth, or fame.
Woe is me, Alhama!

"I lost a damsel in that hour,
Of all the land the loveliest flower;
Doubloons a hundred I would pay,
And think her ransom cheap that day."
Woe is me, Alhama!

And as these things the old Moor said,
They sever'd from the trunk his head;
And to the Alhambra's wall with speed
'Twas carried, as the King decreed.
Woe is me, Alhama!

And men and infants therein weep
Their loss, so heavy and so deep;
Granada's ladies, all she rears
Within her walls, burst into tears.
Woe is me, Alhama!

And from the windows o'er the walls
The sable web of mourning falls;
The King weeps as a woman o'er
His loss, for it is much and sore.
Woe is me, Alhama!

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

They say that Hope is happiness;
But genuine Love must prize the past,
And Memory wakes the thoughts that bless;
They rose the first—they set the last;
And all that Memory loves the most
Was once our only Hope to be,
And all that Hope adored and lost
Hath melted into Memory.

Alas! it is delusion all;
The future cheats us from afar,
Nor can we be what we recall,
Nor dare we think on what we are.

TO THOMAS MOORE.

My boat is on the shore,
And my bark is on the sea;
But, before I go, Tom Moore,
Here's a double health to thee!

Here's a sigh to those who love me,
And a smile to those who hate;
And, whatever sky's above me,
Here's a heart for every fate.

Though the ocean roar around me,
Yet it still shall bear me on;
Though a desert should surround me,
It hath springs that may be won.

Were't the last drop in the well,
As I gasp'd upon the brink,
Ere my fainting spirit fell,
'Tis to thee that I would drink.

With that water, as this wine,
The libation I would pour
Should be—Peace with thine and mine,
And a health to thee, Tom Moore.

TO SAMUEL ROGERS, ESQ.*

Absent or present, still to thee,
My friend, what magic spells belong!
As all can tell, who share, like me,
In turn thy converse and thy song.

But when the dreaded hour shall come,
By Friendship ever deem'd too nigh,
And "Memory" o'er her Druid's tomb
Shall weep that aught of thee can die,

How fondly will she then repay
Thy homage offer'd at her shrine,
And blend, while ages roll away,
Her name immortally with *thine!*

ON THE BUST OF HELEN BY CANOVA.

In this beloved marble view,
Above the works and thoughts of man,
What Nature *could*, but *would not*, do,
And beauty and Canova *can!*
Beyond imagination's power,
Beyond the Bard's defeated art,
With immortality her dower,
Behold the *Helen* of the *heart!*

* Written in a blank leaf of the "Pleasures of Memory."

SONG FOR THE LUDDITES.

As the Liberty lads o'er the sea [blood,
Bought their freedom, and cheaply, with
So we, boys, we
Will *die* fighting, or *live* free,
And down with all kings but King Ludd!

When the web that we weave is complete,
And the shuttle exchanged for the sword,
We will fling the winding-sheet
O'er the despot at our feet,
And dye it deep in the gore he has pour'd.

Though black as his heart its hue,
Since his veins are corrupted to mud,
Yet this is the dew
Which the tree shall renew
Of Liberty, planted by Ludd!

VERSICLES.

I READ the "Cristabel";
Very well:
I read the "Missionary";
Pretty—very:
I tried at "Ilderim";
Ahem!
I read a sheet of "Marg'ret of *Anjou*";
Can you?
I turn'd a page of Scott's "Waterloo";
Pooh! pooh! ["Rylstone Doe";
I look'd at Wordsworth's milk-white
Hillo!
&c., &c., &c.

SO, WE'LL GO NO MORE A ROVING.

So, we'll go no more a roving
So late into the night,
Though the heart be still as loving,
And the moon be still as bright.

For the sword outwears its sheath,
And the soul wears out the breast,
And the heart must pause to breathe,
And love itself have rest.

Though the night was made for loving,
And the day returns too soon,
Yet we'll go no more a roving
By the light of the moon.

TO THOMAS MOORE.

WHAT are you doing now,
Oh Thomas Moore?
What are you doing now,
Oh Thomas Moore?
Sighing or suing now,
Rhyming or wooing now,
Billing or cooing now,
Which, Thomas Moore?

But the Carnival's coming,
Oh Thomas Moore!
The Carnival's coming,
Oh Thomas Moore!
Masking and humming,
Fifing and drumming,
Guitarring and strumming,
Oh Thomas Moore!

TO MR. MURRAY.

To hook the reader, you, John Murray,
Have published "Anjou's Margaret,"
Which won't be sold off in a hurry
(At least, it has not been as yet);
And then, still further to bewilder 'em,
Without remorse, you set up "Ilderim";
So mind you don't get into debt,
Because as how, if you should fail,
These books would be but baddish bail.

And mind you do *not* let escape
These rhymes to Morning Post or Perry,
Which would be *very* treacherous—*very*,
And get me into such a scrape!
For, firstly, I should have to sally,
All in my little boat, against a *Galley;*
And should I chance to slay the Assyrian
wight,
Have next to combat with the female knight.

EPISTLE FROM MR. MURRAY TO DR. POLIDORI.

DEAR DOCTOR, I have read your play,
Which is a good one in its way,—
Purges the eyes and moves the bowels,
And drenches handkerchiefs like towels
With tears, that, in a flux of grief,
Afford hysterical relief
To shatter'd nerves and quicken'd pulses,
Which your catastrophe convulses.

I like your moral and machinery;
Your plot, too, has such scope for scenery;
Your dialogue is apt and smart:
The play's concoction full of art;
Your hero raves, your heroine cries,
All stab, and everybody dies.
In short, your tragedy would be
The very thing to hear and see:
And for a piece of publication,
If I decline on this occasion,
It is not that I am not sensible
To merits in themselves ostensible,
But—and I grieve to speak it—plays
Are drugs—mere drugs, sir,—now-a-days.
I had a heavy loss by "Manuel,"—
Too lucky if it prove not annual,—
And Sotheby, with his "Orestes,"
(Which, by the by, the author's best is,)
Has lain so very long on hand,
That I despair of all demand.
I've advertised, but see my books,
Or only watch my shopman's looks;—
Still Ivan, Ina, and such lumber,
My back-shop glut, my shelves encumber.

There's Byron too, who once did better,
Has sent me, folded in a letter,
A sort of—it's no more a drama
Than Darnley, Ivan, or Kehama:

So alter'd since last year his pen is,
I think he's lost his wits at Venice.
In short, sir, what with one and t'other,
I dare not venture on another.
I write in haste; excuse each blunder!
The coaches through the street so thunder!
My room's so full—we've Gifford here
Reading MS., with Hookham Frere,
Pronouncing on the nouns and particles
Of some of our forthcoming Articles.

The Quarterly—Ah, sir, if you
Had but the genius to review!—
A smart critique upon St. Helena,
Or if you only would but tell in a
Short compass what——but to resume:
As I was saying, sir, the room—
The room's so full of wits and bards, [Wards,
Crabbes, Campbells, Crokers, Freres, and
And others, neither bards nor wits:
My humble tenement admits
All persons in the dress of gent,
From Mr. Hammond to Dog Dent.

A party dines with me to-day,
All clever men, who make their way:
Crabbe, Malcolm, Hamilton, and Chantrey,
Are all partakers of my pantry.
They're at this moment in discussion
On poor De Staël's late dissolution.
Her book, they say, was in advance—
Pray Heaven, she tell the truth of France!
Thus run our time and tongues away;—
But to return, sir, to your play:
Sorry, sir, but I cannot deal,
Unless 'twere acted by O'Neill;
My hands so full, my head so busy,
I'm almost dead, and always dizzy;
And so, with endless truth and hurry,
Dear Doctor, I am yours,

JOHN MURRAY.
August, 1817.

EPISTLE TO MR. MURRAY.

My dear Mr. Murray,
You're in a damn'd hurry,
To set up this ultimate Canto;
But (if they don't rob us)
You'll see Mr. Hobhouse
Will bring it safe in his portmanteau.

For the Journal you hint of,
As ready to print off,
No doubt you do right to commend it;
But as yet I have writ off
The devil a bit of
Our "Beppo:"—when copied, I'll send it.

Then you've ****'s Tour,—
No great things, to be sure,—
You could hardly begin with a less work;
For the pompous rascallion,
Who don't speak Italian [work.
Nor French, must have scribbled by guess

You can make any loss up
With "Spence" and his gossip,
A work which must surely succeed;
Then Queen Mary's Epistle-craft,
With the new "Fytte" of "Whistlecraft,"
Must make people purchase and read.

Then you've General Gordon,
Who girded his sword on,
To serve with a Muscovite master,
And help him to polish
A nation so owlish,
They thought shaving their beards a disaster.

For the man, "poor and shrewd,"
With whom you'd conclude
A compact without more delay,
Perhaps some such pen is
Still extant in Venice;
But please, sir, to mention *your pay*.

Venice, *January* 8, 1818.

TO MR. MURRAY.

STRAHAN, Tonson, Lintot of the times,
Patron and publisher of rhymes,
For thee the bard up Pindus climbs,
My Murray.

To thee, with hope and terror dumb,
The unfledged MS. authors come;
Thou printest all—and sellest some—
My Murray.

Upon thy table's baize so green
The last new Quarterly is seen,—
But where is thy new Magazine,
My Murray?

Along thy sprucest bookshelves shine
The works thou deemest most divine—
The "Art of Cookery," and mine,
My Murray.

Tours, Travels, Essays, too, I wist,
And sermons, to thy mill bring grist;
And then thou hast the "Navy List,"
My Murray.

And Heaven forbid I should conclude
Without "the Board of Longitude,"
Although this narrow paper would,
My Murray.

Venice, *March* 25, 1818.

ON THE BIRTH OF JOHN WILLIAM RIZZO HOPPNER.

His father's sense, his mother's grace,
In him, I hope, will always fit so;
With—still to keep him in good case—
The health and appetite of Rizzo.

February, 1818.

ODE ON VENICE.

THE "Ode to Venice" was written during the period of Byron's residence in the "city of a hundred isles," in 1818. Shelley, who visited him at that period, used to say that all he observed of the workings of Byron's mind during his visit, gave him a far higher idea of its powers than he had ever before entertained.

The city, the history of which is so full of romantic

d poetic incidents, suggested also the poet's two dra-as, "Marino Faliero" and the "Two Foscari." The lament for the lost glory of the Ocean Queen has appily NOT proved prophetic.

"There is no Hope for Nations," cannot be said of e ransomed Venetia, who shares the hopes, the ener-es, and the future of young Italy. There was some-ing prosaic, and like this workaday nineteenth cen-ury, in the means employed for her deliverance; but e origin of her freedom may be traced back to the elds of Magenta and Solferino, red with the best lood of her brethren.—EDIT.

I.

VENICE! Venice! when thy marble walls
Are level with the waters, there shall be
cry of nations o'er thy sunken halls,
A loud lament along the sweeping sea!
If I, a northern wanderer, weep for thee,
What should thy sons do?—anything but weep:
nd yet they only murmur in their sleep.
n contrast with their fathers—as the slime,
he dull green ooze of the receding deep,
with the dashing of the spring-tide foam
hat drives the sailor shipless to his home,
re they to those that were; and thus they
creep, [ping streets.
rouching and crab-like, through their sap-
h! agony—that centuries should reap
o mellower harvest! Thirteen hundred years
f wealth and glory turn'd to dust and tears,
nd every monument the stranger meets,
hurch, palace, pillar, as a mourner greets;
nd even the Lion all subdued appears,
nd the harsh sound of the barbarian drum,
ith dull and daily dissonance, repeats
he echo of thy tyrant's voice along
he soft waves, once all musical to song,
hat heaved beneath the moonlight with the
f gondolas—and to the busy hum [throng
f cheerful creatures, whose most sinful deeds
Were but the overbeating of the heart,
nd flow of too much happiness, which needs
he aid of age to turn its course apart
rom the luxuriant and voluptuous flood
f sweet sensations, battling with the blood.
ut these are better than the gloomy errors,
he weeds of nations in their last decay,
hen Vice walks forth with her unsoften'd terrors,
nd Mirth is madness, and but smiles to slay;
nd Hope is nothing but a false delay,
he sick man's lightning half an hour ere death.
hen Faintness, the last mortal birth of Pain,
nd apathy of limb, the dull beginning
f the cold staggering race which Death is winning,
teals vein by vein and pulse by pulse away;
et so relieving the o'er-tortured clay,
o him appears renewal of his breath,
nd freedom the mere dumbness of his chain;
nd then he talks of life, and how again
e feels his spirit soaring—albeit weak,
nd of the fresher air, which he would seek:
nd as he whispers knows not that he gasps,
hat his thin finger feels not what it clasps,
And so the film comes o'er him, and the dizzy
Chamber swims round and round, and shadows busy,
At which he vainly catches, flit and gleam,
Till the last rattle chokes the strangled scream,
And all is ice and blackness,—and the earth
That which it was the moment ere our birth.

II.

There is no hope for nations!—Search the page
Of many thousand years—the daily scene,
The flow and ebb of each recurring age,
The everlasting *to be* which *hath been*,
Hath taught us nought, or little: still we lean [wear
On things that rot beneath our weight, and
Our strength away in wrestling with the air:
For 'tis our nature strikes us down: the beasts
Slaughter'd in hourly hecatombs for feasts
Are of as high an order—they must go
Ev'n where their driver goads them, though to slaughter. [water,
Ye men, who pour your blood for kings as
What have they given your children in return?
A heritage of servitude and woes,
A blindfold bondage, where your hire is blows.
What! do not yet the red-hot plough-shares burn,
O'er which you stumble in a false ordeal,
And deem this proof of loyalty the *real;*
Kissing the hand that guides you to your scars,
And glorying as you tread the glowing bars?
All that your sires have left you, all that Time
Bequeaths of free, and History of sublime,
Spring from a different theme! Ye see and read, [bleed!
Admire and sigh, and then succumb and
Save the few spirits who, despite of all,
And worse than all, the sudden crimes engender'd
By the down-thundering of the prison-wall,
And thirst to swallow the sweet waters tender'd, [crowd,
Gushing from Freedom's fountains, when the
Madden'd with centuries of drought, are loud,
And trample on each other to obtain
The cup which brings oblivion of a chain
Heavy and sore, in which long yoked they plough'd [grain,
The sand,—or if there sprung the yellow
'Twas not for them, their necks were too much bow'd,
And their dead palates chew'd the cud of pain:
Yes! the few spirits,—who, despite of deeds
Which they abhor, confound not with the cause
Those momentary starts from Nature's laws,
Which, like the pestilence and earthquake, smite
But for a term, then pass, and leave the earth
With all her seasons to repair the blight
With a few summers, and again put forth
Cities and generations—fair, when free—
For, Tyranny, there blooms no bud for thee!

III.

Glory and Empire! once upon these towers
With Freedom—godlike Triad! how ye sate! [hours
The league of mightiest nations in those
When Venice was an envy, might abate.
But did not quench her spirit; in her fate
All were enwrapp'd: the feasted monarchs knew [hate,
And loved their hostess, nor could learn to
Although they humbled—with the kingly few
The many felt, for from all days and climes
She was the voyager's worship; even her crimes
Were of the softer order—born of Love,
She drank no blood, nor fatten'd on the dead,
But gladden'd where her harmless conquests spread;
For these restored the cross, that from above
Hallow'd her sheltering banners, which incessant
Flew between earth and the unholy Crescent,
Which, if it waned and dwindled, Earth may thank
The city it has clothed in chains, which clank
Now, creaking in the ears of those who owe
The name of Freedom to her glorious struggles;
Yet she but shares with them a common woe,
And call'd the "kingdom" of a conquering foe,
But knows what all—and, most of all, *we* know—
With what set gilded terms a tyrant juggles!

IV.

The name of Commonwealth is past and gone
O'er the three factions of the groaning globe;
Venice is crush'd, and Holland deigns to own
A sceptre, and endures the purple robe;
If the free Switzer yet bestrides alone
His chainless mountains, 'tis but for a time,
For tyranny of late is cunning grown,
And in its own good season tramples down
The sparkles of our ashes. One great clime,
Whose vigorous offspring by dividing ocean
Are kept apart and nursed in the devotion
Of Freedom, which their fathers fought for, and
Bequeath'd—a heritage of heart and hand,
And proud distinction from each other land,
Whose sons must bow them at a monarch's motion,
As if his senseless sceptre were a wand
Full of the magic of exploded science—
Still one great clime, in full and free defiance,
Yet rears her crest, unconquer'd and sublime,
Above the far Atlantic!—she has taught
Her Esau-brethren that the haughty flag,
The floating fence of Albion's feebler crag,
May strike to those whose red right hands have bought [forever,
Rights cheaply earn'd with blood. Still, still
Better, though each man's life-blood were a river,
That it should flow, and overflow, than creep
Through thousand lazy channels in our veins,
Damm'd like the dull canal with locks and chains,
And moving as a sick man in his sleep,
Three paces, and then faltering:—better be
Where the extinguish'd Spartans still are free,
In their proud charnel of Thermopylæ,
Than stagnate in our marsh,—or o'er the deep
Fly, and one current to the ocean add,
One spirit to the souls our fathers had,
One freeman more, America, to thee!

TRANSLATION FROM VITTORELLI,

ON A NUN.

Sonnet composed in the name of a father, whose daughter had recently died shortly after her marriage; and addressed to the father of her who had lately taken the veil.

Of two fair virgins, modest, though admired,
Heaven made us happy; and, now, wretched sires, [sires,
Heaven for a nobler doom their worth de-
And gazing upon *either*, *both* required.
Mine, while the torch of Hymen newly fired
Becomes extinguish'd, soon—too soon—expires:
But thine, within the closing grate retired,
Eternal captive, to her God aspires:
But *thou* at least from out the jealous door,
Which shuts between your never-meeting eyes, [more:
May'st hear her sweet and pious voice once
I to the marble, where *my* daughter lies,
Rush,—the swol'n flood of bitterness I pour,
And knock, and knock, and knock—but none replies.

STANZAS TO THE PO.

River, that rollest by the ancient walls,
Where dwells the lady of my love, when she
Walks by thy brink, and there perchance recalls
A faint and fleeting memory of me; [calls

What if thy deep and ample stream should be
A mirror of my heart, where she may read
The thousand thoughts I now betray to thee,
Wild as thy wave, and headlong as thy speed!

What do I say—a mirror of my heart? [strong?
Are not thy waters sweeping, dark, and
Such as my feelings were and are, thou art;
And such as thou art were my passions long.

Time may have somewhat tamed them,—not forever;
Thou overflow'st thy banks, and not for aye
Thy bosom overboils, congenial river! [away:
Thy floods subside, and mine have sunk

But left long wrecks behind, and now again,
Borne on our old unchanged career, we move;
Thou tendest wildly onwards to the main,
And I—to loving *one* I should not love.

e current I behold will sweep beneath
Her native walls, and murmur at her feet:
er eyes will look on thee, when she shall
breathe [heat.
The twilight air, unharm'd by summer's

e will look on thee,—I have look'd on thee,
Full of that thought: and from that mo-
ment, ne'er
y waters could I dream of, name, or see,
Without the inseparable sigh for her!

er bright eyes will be imaged in thy stream,
Yes! they will meet the wave I gaze on now:
ine cannot witness, even in a dream,
That happy wave repass me in its flow!

e wave that bears my tears returns no more:
Will she return by whom that wave shall
sweep? [shore,
th tread thy banks, both wander on thy
I by thy source, she by the dark-blue deep.

t that which keepeth us apart is not
Distance, nor depth of wave, nor space of
ut the distraction of a various lot, [earth,
As various as the climates of our birth.

stranger loves the lady of the land, [blood
Born far beyond the mountains, but his
all meridian, as if never fann'd
By the black wind that chills the polar flood.

y blood is all meridian, were it not,
I had not left my clime, nor should I be,
spite of tortures ne'er to be forgot,
A slave again of love,—at least of thee.

'is vain to struggle—let me perish young—
Live as I lived, and love as I have loved:
o dust if I return, from dust I sprung,
And then, at least, my heart can ne'er be
moved.

SONNET TO GEORGE THE FOURTH

ON THE REPEAL OF
LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD'S FORFEITURE.

o be the father of the fatherless,
To stretch the hand from the throne's
height, and raise
His offspring, who expired in other days
o make thy sire's sway by a kingdom less,—
This is to be a monarch and repress
Envy into unutterable praise. [traits,
Dismiss thy guard, and trust thee to such
or who would lift a hand, except to bless?
Were it not easy, sir, and is't not sweet,
To make thyself beloved? and to be
mnipotent by mercy's means? for thus
Thy sovereignty would grow but more com-
plete:
despot thou, and yet thy people free,
And by the heart, not hand, enslaving us.

EPIGRAM.

FROM THE FRENCH OF RULHIERES.

F, for silver or for gold,
You could melt ten thousand pimples
Into half a dozen dimples,
Then your face we might behold,
Looking, doubtless, much more snugly;
Yet even *then* 'twould be d—d ugly.

STANZAS.

Could Love forever
Run like a river,
And Time's endeavor
Be tried in vain—
No other pleasure
With this could measure,
And like a treasure
We'd hug the chain.
But since our sighing
Ends not in dying,
And, form'd for flying,
Love plumes his wing;
Then for this reason
Let's love a season;
But let that season be only Spring.

When lovers parted
Feel broken-hearted,
And, all hopes thwarted,
Expect to die;
A few years older,
Ah! how much colder
They might behold her
For whom they sigh!
When link'd together,
In every weather,
They pluck Love's feather
From out his wing—
He'll stay forever,
But sadly shiver
Without his plumage, when past the Spring.

Like chiefs of Faction,
His life is action—
A formal paction
That curbs his reign,
Obscures his glory,
Despot no more, he
Such territory
Quits with disdain.
Still, still advancing,
With banners glancing,
His power enhancing,
He must move on—
Repose but cloys him,
Retreat destroys him,
Love brooks not a degraded throne.

Wait not, fond lover!
Till years are over,
And then recover
As from a dream.
While each bewailing
The other's failing,
With wrath and railing,
All hideous seem—
While first decreasing,
Yet not quite ceasing,
Wait not till teasing
All passion blight;

If once diminish'd,
Love's reign is finish'd—
Then part in friendship—and bid good-night.

So shall Affection
To recollection
The dear connexion
Bring back with joy:
You had not waited
Till, tired or hated,
Your passions sated
Began to cloy.
Your last embraces
Leave no cold traces—
The same fond faces
As through the past:
And eyes, the mirrors
Of your sweet errors,
Reflect but rapture—not least though last.

True, separations
Ask more than patience;
What desperations
From such have risen!
But yet remaining
What is't but chaining
Hearts which, once waning,
Beat 'gainst their prison?
Time can but cloy love
And use destroy love:
The winged boy, Love,
Is but for boys—
You'll find it torture,
Though sharper, shorter,
To wean, and not wear out your joys.

ON MY WEDDING-DAY.

Here's a happy new year! but with reason
I beg you'll permit me to say—
Wish me *many* returns of the *season*,
But as *few* as you please of the day.

January 2, 1820.

EPITAPH FOR WILLIAM PITT.

With death doom'd to grapple,
Beneath this cold slab, he
Who lied in the Chapel,
Now lies in the Abbey.

EPIGRAM.

In digging up your bones, Tom Paine,
Will. Cobbett has done well:
You'll visit him on earth again,
He'll visit you in hell.

January, 1820.

STANZAS.

When a man hath no freedom to fight for at home,
Let him combat for that of his neighbors;
Let him think of the glories of Greece and of Rome,
And get knock'd on the head for his labors.

To do good to mankind is the chivalrous plan,
And is always as nobly requited;
Then battle for freedom wherever you can,
And if not shot or hang'd you'll get knighted.

EPIGRAM.

The world is a bundle of hay,
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull.

THE CHARITY BALL.

What matter the pangs of a husband and father,
If his sorrows in exile be great or be small,
So the Pharisee's glories around her she gather,
And the saint patronizes her "charity ball!"

What matters—a heart which, though faulty, was feeling,
Be driven to excesses which once could appal—
That the sinner should suffer is only fair dealing,
As the saint keeps her charity back for "the ball!"

EPIGRAM

ON THE BRAZIERS' COMPANY HAVING RESOLVED TO PRESENT AN ADDRESS TO QUEEN CAROLINE.

The braziers, it seems, are preparing to pass
An address, and present it themselves all in brass;
A superfluous pageant—for, by the Lord Harry!
They'll find where they're going much more than they carry.

EPIGRAM ON MY WEDDING-DAY.

TO PENELOPE.

This day, of all our days, has done
The worst for me and you:
'Tis just *six* years since we were *one*,
And *five* since we were *two*.

January 2, 1821.

ON MY THIRTY-THIRD BIRTHDAY.

January 22, 1821.

Through life's dull road, so dim and dirty,
I have dragg'd to three-and-thirty.
What have these years left to me?
Nothing—except thirty-three.

MARTIAL, Lib. I., Epig. I.

"Hic est, quem legis, ille, quem requiris,
Tota notus in orbe Martialis," etc.

He unto whom thou art so partial,
Oh, reader! is the well-known Martial,
The Epigrammatist: while living,
Give him the fame thou wouldst be giving;

So shall he hear, and feel, and know it—
Post-obits rarely reach a poet.

BOWLES AND CAMPBELL.

To the tune of "Why, how now, saucy jade?"

Why, how now, saucy Tom?
If you thus must ramble,
I will publish some
Remarks on Mister Campbell.

ANSWER.

Why, how now, Billy Bowles?
Sure the priest is maudlin! [souls!
(*To the public.*) How can you, d—n your
Listen to his twaddling?

EPIGRAMS.

Oh, Castlereagh! thou art a patriot now;
Cato died for his country, so didst thou:
He perish'd rather than see Rome enslaved,
Thou cutt'st thy throat that Britain may be saved!

So Castlereagh has cut his throat!—The worst
Of this is—that his own was not the first.

So *He* has cut his throat at last!—He! Who?
The man who cut his country's long ago.

EPITAPH.

Posterity will ne'er survey
A nobler grave than this:
Here lie the bones of Castlereagh:
Stop, traveler ——

JOHN KEATS.

Who kill'd John Keats?
"I," says the Quarterly,
So savage and Tartarly;
"'Twas one of my feats."

Who shot the arrow?
"The poet-priest Milman
(So ready to kill man),
"Or Southey, or Barrow."

THE CONQUEST.

[This fragment was found amongst Lord Byron's papers after his departure from Genoa for Greece.]

The Son of Love and Lord of War I sing;
Him who bade England bow to Normandy,
And left the name of conqueror more than king
To his unconquerable dynasty.
Not fann'd alone by Victory's fleeting wing,
He rear'd his bold and brilliant throne on high:
The Bastard kept, like lions, his prey fast,
And Britain's bravest victor was the last.

TO MR. MURRAY.

For Oxford and for Waldegrave
You give much more than me you gave:
Which is not fairly to behave,
My Murray.

Because if a live dog, 'tis said,
Be worth a lion fairly sped,
A *live lord* must be worth *two* dead,
My Murray.

And if, as the opinion goes,
Verse hath a better sale than prose,—
Certes, I should have more than those,
My Murray.

But now this sheet is nearly cramm'd,
So, if *you will*, *I* shan't be shamm'd,
And if you *won't*, *you* may be damn'd,
My Murray.

THE IRISH AVATAR.

"And Ireland, like a bastinadoed elephant, kneeling to receive the paltry rider."—Curran.

Ere the daughter of Brunswick is cold in her grave, [the tide,
And her ashes still float to their home o'er
Lo! George the triumphant speeds over the wave, [like his—bride!
To the long-cherish'd isle which he loved

True, the great of her bright and brief era are gone, [could pause
The rainbow-like epoch where Freedom
For the few little years, out of centuries won,
Which betray'd not, or crush'd not, or wept not her cause.

True, the chains of the Catholic clank o'er his rags, [more,
The castle still stands, and the senate's no
And the famine which dwelt on her freedomless crags
Is extending its steps to her desolate shore.

To her desolate shore—where the emigrant stands [hearth;
For a moment to gaze ere he flies from his
Tears fall on his chain, though it drops from his hands, [birth.
For the dungeon he quits is the place of his

But he comes! the Messiah of royalty comes!
Like a goodly Leviathan roll'd from the waves; [comes,
Then receive him as best such an advent be-
With a legion of cooks and an army of slaves!

He comes in the promise and bloom of threescore, [part—
To perform in the pageant the sovereign's
But long live the shamrock, which shadows him o'er! [his *heart!*
Could the green in his *hat* be transferr'd to

Could that long-wither'd spot but be verdant again, [arise—
And a new spring of noble affections
Then might freedom forgive thee this dance in thy chain, [the skies.
And this shout of thy slavery which saddens

Is it madness or meanness which clings to thee now? [clay,
Were he God—as he is but the commonest

With scarce fewer wrinkles than sins on his brow— [away.
Such servile devotion might shame him

Ay, roar in his train! let thine orators lash!
Their fanciful spirits to pamper his pride—
Not thus did thy Grattan indignantly flash
His soul o'er the freedom implored and denied.

Ever glorious Grattan! the best of the good!
So simple in heart, so sublime in the rest!
With all which Demosthenes wanted endued,
And his rival or victor in all he possess'd.

Ere Tully arose in the zenith of Rome,
Though unequall'd, preceded, the talk was begun— [tomb
But Grattan sprung up like a god from the
Of ages, the first, last, the saviour, the *one!*

With the skill of an Orpheus to soften the brute; [kind;
With the fire of Prometheus to kindle man-
Even Tyranny listening sate melted or mute,
And Corruption shrunk scorch'd from the glance of his mind.

But back to our theme! Back to despots and slaves! [Pain!
Feasts furnish'd by Famine! rejoicings by
True Freedom but *welcomes*, while Slavery still *raves*, [chain.
When a week's saturnalia hath loosen'd her

Let the poor squalid splendor thy wreck can afford [hide),
(As the bankrupt's profusion his ruin would
Gild over the palace, Lo! Erin, thy lord!
Kiss his foot with thy blessing, his blessings denied!

Or *if* freedom past hope be extorted at last,
If the idol of brass find his feet are of clay,
Must what terror or policy wring forth be class'd [wolves yield their prey?
With what monarchs ne'er give, but as

Each brute hath its nature; a king's is to *reign*— [prised
To *reign!* in that word see, ye ages, com-
The cause of the curses all annals contain,
From Cæsar the dreaded to George the despised!

Wear, Fingal, thy trapping! O'Connell, proclaim [country convince
His accomplishments! *His!!!* and thy
Half an age's contempt was an error of fame,
And that "Hal is the rascaliest, sweetest *young* prince!"

Will thy yard of blue riband, poor Fingal, recall [limbs?
The fetters from millions of Catholics
Or, has it not bound thee the fastest of all
The slaves, who now hail their betrayer with hymns?

Ay! "Build him a dwelling!" let each give his mite! [arisen!
Till, like Babel, the new royal dome hath
Let thy beggars and helots their pittance unite—
And a palace bestow for a poor-house and prison!

Spread—spread, for Vitellius, the royal repast, [gorge!
Till the gluttonous despot be stuff'd to the
And the roar of his drunkards proclaim him at last ["George!"
The fourth of the fools and oppressors call'd

Let the tables be loaded with feasts till they groan!
Till they *groan* like thy people, through ages of woe! [throne,
Let the wine flow around the old Bacchanal's
Like their blood which has flow'd and which yet has to flow.

But let not *his* name be thine idol alone—
On his right hand behold a Sejanus appears! [own!
Thine own Castlereagh! let him still be thine
A wretch never named but with curses and jeers!

Till now, when the isle which should blush for his birth, [her soil,
Deep, deep as the gore which he shed on
Seems proud of the reptile which crawl'd from her earth, [a smile.
And for murder repays him with shouts and

Without one single ray of her genius, without
The fancy, the manhood, the fire of her race—
The miscreant who well might plunge Erin in doubt
If *she* ever gave birth to a being so base.

If she did—let her long-boasted proverb be hush'd,
Which proclaims that from Erin no reptile can spring— [flush'd,
See the cold-blooded serpent, with venom full
Still warming its folds in the breast of a king!

Shout, drink, feast, and flatter! Oh! Erin how low [till
Wert thou sunk by misfortune and tyranny,
Thy welcome of tyrants hath plunged thee below
The depth of thy deep in a deeper gulf still!

My voice, though but humble, was raised for thy right,
My vote, as a freeman's, still voted thee free,
This hand, though but feeble, would arm in thy fight, [still for *thee!*
And this heart, though outworn, had a throb

Yes, I loved thee and thine, though thou art not my land, [in thy sons,
I have known noble hearts and great souls

nd I wept with the world, o'er the patriot band [as once.
Who are gone, but I weep them no longer

or happy are they now reposing afar—
Thy Grattan, thy Curran, thy Sheridan, all
ho, for years, were the chiefs in the eloquent war, [thy fall.
And redeem'd, if they have not retarded,

s, happy are they in their cold English graves! [to-day—
Their shades cannot start to thy shouts of
or the steps of enslavers and chain-kissing slaves [clay.
Be stamped in the turf o'er their fetterless

ill now I had envied thy sons and their shore,
Though their virtues were hunted, their liberties fled;
here was something so warm and sublime in the core [*dead.*
Of an Irishman's heart, that I envy—thy

r, if aught in my bosom can quench for an hour [sore,
My contempt for a nation so servile, though
hich though trod like the worm will not turn upon power,
'Tis the glory of Grattan, and genius of Moore!

September, 1821.

TANZAS WRITTEN ON THE ROAD BETWEEN FLORENCE AND PISA.

n, talk not to me of a name great in story;
he days of our youth are the days of our glory; [twenty
nd the myrtle and ivy of sweet two-and-
re worth all your laurels, though ever so plenty.

What are garlands and crowns to the brow that is wrinkled? [sprinkled.
Tis but as a dead flower with May-dew be-
hen away with all such from the head that is hoary! [glory!
What care I for the wreaths that can *only* give

h Fame!—if I e'er took delight in thy praises, [phrases,
Twas less for the sake of thy high-sounding
han to see the bright eyes of the dear one discover [her.
he thought that I was not unworthy to love

There chiefly I sought thee, *there* only I found thee; [round thee;
Her glance was the best of the rays that sur-
When it sparkled o'er aught that was bright in my story,
I knew it was love, and I felt it was glory.

November, 1821.

STANZAS TO A HINDOO AIR.

Oh! my lonely—lonely—lonely—Pillow!
Where is my lover? where is my lover?
Is it his bark which my dreary dreams discover?
Far—far away! and alone along the billow?

Oh! my lonely—lonely—lonely—Pillow!
Why must my head ache where his gentle brow lay? [slowly,
How the long night flags lovelessly and
And my head droops over thee like the willow!

Oh! thou, my sad and solitary Pillow!
Send me kind dreams to keep my heart from breaking, [waking;
In return for the tears I shed upon thee
Let me not die till he comes back o'er the billow.

Then if thou wilt—no more my *lonely* Pillow, [him,
In one embrace let these arms again enfold
And then expire of the joy—but to behold him! [low!
Oh! my lone bosom!—oh! my lonely Pil-

IMPROMPTU.

Beneath Blessington's eyes
The reclaim'd Paradise
Should be free as the former from evil;
But if the new Eve
For an apple should grieve,
What mortal would not play the Devil?

TO THE COUNTESS OF BLESSINGTON.

You have ask'd for a verse:—the request
In a rhymer 'twere strange to deny;
But my Hippocrene was but my breast,
And my feelings (its fountain) are dry.

Were I now as I was, I had sung
What Laurence has painted so well;
But the strain would expire on my tongue,
And the theme is too soft for my shell.

I am ashes where once I was fire,
And the bard in my bosom is dead;
What I loved I now merely admire,
And my heart is as grey as my head.

My life is not dated by years—
There are moments which act as a plough;
And there is not a furrow appears
But is deep in my soul as my brow.

Let the young and the brilliant aspire
To sing what I gaze on in vain:
For sorrow has torn from my lyre
The string which was worthy the strain.

ON LORD THURLOW'S POEMS.

When Thurlow this damn'd nonsense sent
(I hope I am not violent),
Nor men nor gods knew what he meant,
And since not even our Rogers' praise

To common sense his thoughts could raise—
Why *would* they let him print his lays?

* * * * *
* * * * *

To me, divine Apollo, grant—O!
Hermilda's first and second canto.
I'm fitting up a new portmanteau;
And thus to furnish decent lining,
My own and others' bays I'm twining,—
So, gentle Thurlow, throw me thine in.

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

Bright be the place of thy soul!
No lovelier spirit than thine
E'er burst from its mortal control,
In the orbs of the blessed to shine.
On earth thou wert all but divine,
As thy soul shall immortally be;
And our sorrow may cease to repine
When we know that thy God is with thee.

Light be the turf of thy tomb!
May its verdure like emeralds be!
There should not be the shadow of gloom
In aught that reminds us of thee.
Young flowers and an evergreen tree
May spring from the spot of the rest;
But nor cyprus nor yew let us see:
For why should we mourn for the blest?

ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR.

Missolonghi, *Jan.* 22, 1824.

'Tis time this heart should be unmoved,
Since others it hath ceased to move:
Yet, though I cannot be beloved,
Still let me love!

My days are in the yellow leaf;
The flowers and fruits of love are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief
Are mine alone!

The fire that on my bosom preys
Is lone as some volcanic isle;
No torch is kindled at its blaze—
A funeral pile.

The hope, the fear, the jealous care,
The exalted portion of the pain
And power of love, I cannot share,
But wear the chain.

But 'tis not *thus*—and 'tis not *here*—
Such thoughts should shake my soul, nor *now*,
Where glory decks the hero's bier,
Or binds his brow.

The sword, the banner, and the field,
Glory and Greece, around me see!
The Spartan, borne upon his shield,
Was not more free.

Awake! (not Greece—she *is* awake!)
Awake, my spirit! Think through *whom*
Thy life-blood tracks its parent lake,
And then strike home!

Tread those reviving passions down,
Unworthy manhood!—unto thee
Indifferent should the smile or frown
Of beauty be.

If thou regrett'st thy youth, *why live?*
The land of honorable death
Is here:—up to the field, and give
Away thy breath!

Seek out—less often sought than found—
A soldier's grave, for thee the best;
Then look around, and choose thy ground,
And take thy rest.

HEBREW MELODIES.

The subsequent poems were written at the request of my friend the Hon. Douglas Kinnaird for a Selection of Hebrew Melodies.

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY.

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear, their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

THE HARP THE MONARCH MINSTREL SWEPT.

The harp the monarch minstrel swept,
The King of men, the loved of Heaven,
Which Music hallow'd while she wept
O'er tones her heart of hearts had given,

Redoubled be her tears, its chords are riven!
t soften'd men of iron mould,
It gave them virtues not their own ;
lo ear so dull, no soul so cold,
That felt not, fired not to the tone, [throne.
Till David's lyre grew mightier than his

t told the triumphs of our King,
It wafted glory to our God ;
t made our gladden'd valleys ring,
The cedars bow, the mountains nod ;
Its sound aspired to heaven and there abode!
ince then, though heard on earth no more,
Devotion and her daughter Love,
till bid the bursting spirit soar
To sounds that seem as from above,
In dreams that day's broad light cannot remove.

IF THAT HIGH WORLD.

r that high world, which lies beyond
Our own, surviving Love endears ;
f there the cherish'd heart be fond,
The eye the same, except in tears—
low welcome those untrodden spheres !
How sweet this very hour to die !
o soar from earth, and find all fears
Lost in thy light—Eternity !

t must be so : 'tis not for self
That we so tremble on the brink ;
nd striving to o'erleap the gulf,
Yet cling to Being's severing link.
Oh ! in that future let us think
To hold each heart the heart that shares ;
Vith them the immortal waters drink,
And soul in soul grow deathless theirs !

THE WILD GAZELLE.

The wild gazelle on Judah's hills
Exulting yet may bound,
And drink from all the living rills
That gush on holy ground :
ts airy step and glorious eye
May glance in tameless transport by :

A step as fleet, an eye more bright,
Hath Judah witness'd there,
And o'er her scenes of lost delight
Inhabitants more fair.
The cedars wave on Lebanon,
But Judah's statelier maids are gone !

More blest each palm that shades those plains
Than Israel's scatter'd race ;
For, taking root, it there remains
In solitary grace :
t cannot quit its place of birth,
t will not live in other earth.

But we must wander witheringly,
In other lands to die ;
And where our fathers' ashes be,
Our own may never lie :
Our temple hath not left a stone,
And Mockery sits on Salem's throne.

OH ! WEEP FOR THOSE.

Oh ! weep for those that wept by Babel's stream, [dream ;
Whose shrines are desolate, whose land a
Weep for the harp of Judah's broken shell ;
Mourn—where their God hath dwelt, the godless dwell !

And where shall Israel lave her bleeding feet ?
And when shall Zion's songs again seem
And Judah's melody once more rejoice [sweet?
The hearts that leap'd before its heavenly voice ?

Tribes of the wandering foot and weary breast,
How shall ye flee away and be at rest !
The wild-dove hath her nest, the fox his cave,
Mankind their country—Israel but the grave !

ON JORDAN'S BANKS.

On Jordan's banks the Arab's camels stray,
On Sion's hill the False One's votaries pray,
The Baal-adorer bows on Sinai's steep—
Yet there—even there—O God ! Thy thunders sleep :

There—where Thy finger scorch'd the tablet stone ! [shone !
There—where Thy shadow to Thy people
The glory shrouded in its garb of fire :
Thyself—none living see and not expire !

Oh ! in the lightning let Thy glance appear :
Sweep from his shiver'd hand the oppressor's spear :
How long by tyrants shall Thy land be trod ?
How long Thy temple worshipless, O God !

JEPHTHA'S DAUGHTER.

Since our Country, our God—oh, my sire !
Demand that thy daughter expire ;
Since thy triumph was bought by thy vow—
Strike the bosom that's bared for thee now !

And the voice of my mourning is o'er,
And the mountains behold me no more ;
If the hand that I love lay me low,
There cannot be pain in the blow !

And of this, O my father ! be sure—
That the blood of thy child is as pure
As the blessing I beg ere it flow,
And the last thought that soothes me below.

Though the virgins of Salem lament,
Be the judge and the hero unbent !
I have won the great battle for thee,
And my father and country are free !

When this blood of thy giving hath gush'd,
When the voice that thou lovest is hush'd,
Let my memory still be thy pride,
And forget not I smiled as I died !

OH ! SNATCH'D AWAY IN BEAUTY'S BLOOM.

Oh ! snatch'd away in beauty's bloom,
On thee shall press no ponderous tomb ;

But on thy turf shall roses rear
Their leaves, the earliest of the year ;
And the wild cypress wave in tender gloom ;

And oft by yon blue gushing stream
Shall Sorrow lean her drooping head,
And feed deep thought with many a dream,
And lingering pause and lightly tread ;
Fond wretch ! as if her step disturb'd the dead !

Away ! we know that tears are vain,
That death nor heeds nor hears distress ;
Will this unteach us to complain ?
Or make one mourner weep the less ?
And thou—who tell'st me to forget,
Thy looks are wan, thine eyes are wet.

MY SOUL IS DARK.

My soul is dark—oh ! quickly string
The harp I yet can brook to hear ;
And let thy gentle fingers fling
Its melting murmurs o'er mine ear.
If in this heart a hope be dear,
That sound shall charm it forth again :
If in these eyes there lurk a tear,
'Twill flow, and cease to burn my brain.

But bid the strain be wild and deep,
Nor let thy notes of joy be first :
I tell thee, minstrel, I must weep,
Or else this heavy heart will burst ;
For it hath been by sorrow nursed,
And ached in sleepless silence long ;
And now 'tis doom'd to know the worst,
And break at once—or yield to song.

I SAW THEE WEEP.

I saw thee weep—the big bright tear
Came o'er that eye of blue ;
And then methought it did appear
A violet dropping dew :
I saw thee smile—the sapphire's blaze
Beside thee ceased to shine ;
It could not match the living rays
That fill'd that glance of thine.

As clouds from yonder sun receive
A deep and mellow dye,
Which scarce the shade of coming eve
Can banish from the sky,
Those smiles unto the moodiest mind
Their own pure joy impart ;
Their sunshine leaves a glow behind
That lightens o'er the heart.

THY DAYS ARE DONE.

Thy days are done, thy fame begun ;
Thy country's strains record
The triumphs of her chosen son,
The slaughters of his sword !
The deeds he did, the fields he won,
The freedom he restored !

Though thou art fall'n, while we are free
Thou shalt not taste of death !

The generous blood that flow'd from thee
Disdain'd to sink beneath :
Within our veins its currents be,
Thy spirit on our breath !

Thy name, our charging hosts along,
Shall be the battle-word !
Thy fall, the theme of choral song
From virgin voices pour'd !
To weep would do thy glory wrong :
Thou shalt not be deplored.

SAUL.

Thou whose spell can raise the dead,
Bid the prophet's form appear,
"Samuel, raise thy buried head !
King, behold the phantom seer !"

Earth yawn'd ; he stood the centre of a cloud :
Light changed its hue, retiring from his shroud.
Death stood all glassy in his fixed eye ; [dry ;
His hand was wither'd, and his veins were
His foot, in bony whiteness, glitter'd there,
Shrunken and sinewless, and ghastly bare ;
From lips that moved not and unbreathing frame,
Like cavern'd winds, the hollow accents came.
Saul saw, and fell to earth, as falls the oak,
At once, and blasted by the thunder-stroke.

"Why is my sleep disquieted ?
Who is he that calls the dead ?
Is it thou, O King ? Behold,
Bloodless are these limbs, and cold :
Such are mine ; and such shall be
Thine to-morrow, when with me :
Ere the coming day is done,
Such shalt thou be, such thy son.
Fare thee well, but for a day,
Then we mix our mouldering clay.
Thou, thy race, lie pale and low,
Pierced by shafts of many a bow ;
And the falchion by thy side
To thy heart thy hand shall guide :
Crownless, breathless, headless fall,
Son and sire, the house of Saul !"

SONG OF SAUL BEFORE HIS LAST BATTLE.

Warriors and chiefs ! should the shaft or the sword
Pierce me in leading the host of the Lord,
Heed not the corse, though a king's, in your path ;
Bury your steel in the bosoms of Gath !

Thou who art bearing my buckler and bow,
Should the soldiers of Saul look away from the foe,
Stretch me that moment in blood at thy feet !
Mine be the doom which they dared not to meet.

Farewell to others, but never we part,
Heir to my royalty, son of my heart !
Bright is the diadem, boundless the sway,
Or kingly the death, which awaits us to-day.

"ALL IS VANITY, SAITH THE PREACHER."

Fame, wisdom, love, and power were mine,
And health and youth possess'd me;
My goblets blush'd from every vine,
And lovely forms caress'd me:
I sunn'd my heart in beauty's eyes,
And felt my soul grow tender;
All earth can give, or mortal prize,
Was mine of regal splendor.

I strive to number o'er what days
Remembrance can discover,
Which all that life or earth displays
Would lure me to live over.
There rose no day, there roll'd nó hour
Of pleasure unembitter'd;
And not a trapping deck'd my power
That gall'd not while it glitter'd.

The serpent of the field, by art
And spells, is won from harming;
But that which coils around the heart,
Oh! who hath power of charming?
It will not list to wisdom's lore,
Nor music's voice can lure it;
But there it stings forevermore
The soul that must endure it.

WHEN COLDNESS WRAPS THIS SUFFERING CLAY.

When coldness wraps this suffering clay,
Ah! whither strays the immortal mind?
It cannot die, it cannot stay,
But leaves its darken'd dust behind.
Then, unembodied, doth it trace
By steps each planet's heavenly way?
Or fill at once the realms of space,
A thing of eyes that all survey?

Eternal, boundless, undecay'd,
A thought unseen, but seeing all,
All, all in earth or skies display'd,
Shall it survey, shall it recall:
Each fainter trace that memory holds
So darkly of departed years,
In one broad glance the soul beholds,
And all that was at once appears.

Before Creation peopled earth,
Its eye shall roll through chaos back;
And where the furthest heaven had birth,
The spirit trace its rising track.
And where the future mars or makes,
Its glance dilate o'er all to be,
While sun is quench'd, or system breaks,
Fix'd in its own eternity.

Above or Love, Hope, Hate, or Fear,
It lives all passionless and pure:
An age shall fleet like earthly year;
Its years as moments shall endure.
Away, away, without a wing,
O'er all, through all, its thought shall fly,
A nameless and eternal thing,
Forgetting what it was to die.

VISION OF BELSHAZZAR.

The King was on his throne,
The Satraps throng'd the hall:
A thousand bright lamps shone
O'er that high festival.
A thousand cups of gold,
In Judah deem'd divine—
Jehovah's vessels hold
The godless Heathen's wine.

In that same hour and hall,
The fingers of a hand
Came forth against the wall,
And wrote as if on sand:
The fingers of a man—
A solitary hand
Along the letters ran,
And traced them like a wand.

The monarch saw, and shook,
And bade no more rejoice;
All bloodless wax'd his look,
And tremulous his voice.
"Let the men of lore appear,
The wisest of the earth,
And expound the words of fear,
Which mar our royal mirth."

Chaldea's seers are good,
But here they have no skill;
And the unknown letters stood
Untold and awful still.
And Babel's men of age
Are wise and deep in lore;
But now they were not sage,
They saw—but knew no more.

A captive in the land,
A stranger and a youth,
He heard the king's command,
He saw that writing's truth.
The lamps around were bright,
The prophecy in view;
He read it on that night—
The morrow proved it true.

"Belshazzar's grave is made,
His kingdom pass'd away,
He, in the balance weigh'd,
Is light and worthless clay;
The shroud his robe of state,
His canopy the stone;
The Mede is at his gate!
The Persian on his throne!"

SUN OF THE SLEEPLESS!

Sun of the sleepless! melancholy star!
Whose tearful beam glows tremulously far,
That show'st the darkness thou canst not dispel,
How like art thou to joy remember'd well!
So gleams the past, the light of other days,
Which shines, but warms not with its powerless rays;
A night-beam Sorrow watcheth to behold,
Distinct, but distant—clear, but oh, how cold!

WERE MY BOSOM AS FALSE AS THOU DEEM'ST IT TO BE.

WERE my bosom as false as thou deem'st it to be,
I need not have wander'd from far Galilee;
It was but abjuring my creed to efface
The curse which, thou says't, is the crime of my race.

If the bad never triumph, then God is with thee! [free!
If the slave only sin, thou art spotless and
If the exile on earth is an outcast on high,
Live on in thy faith, but in mine I will die,

I have lost for that faith more than thou canst bestow, [know:
As the God who permits thee to prosper doth
In His hand is my heart and my hope—and in thine [sign.
The land and the life which for Him I re-

HEROD'S LAMENT FOR MARIAMNE.

OH, Mariamne! now for thee
The heart for which thou bled'st is bleeding:
Revenge is lost in agony,
And wild remorse to rage succeeding.
Oh, Mariamne! where art thou?
Thou canst not hear my bitter pleading:
Ah! couldst thou—thou wouldst pardon now,
Though Heaven were to my prayer unheeding.

And is she dead?—and did they dare
Obey my frenzy's jealous raving?
My wrath but doom'd my own despair:
The sword that smote her o'er me waving.
But thou art cold, my murder'd love!
And this dark heart is vainly craving
For her who soars alone above,
And leaves my soul unworthy saving.

She's gone, who shared my diadem;
She sunk, with her my joys entombing;
I swept that flower from Judah's stem,
Whose leaves for me alone are blooming;
And mine's the guilt, and mine the hell,
This bosom's desolation dooming;
And I have earn'd those tortures well,
Which unconsumed are still consuming!

ON THE DAY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY TITUS.

FROM the last hill that looks on thy once holy dome,
I beheld thee, O Sion, when render'd to Rome:
'Twas thy last sun went down, and the flames of thy fall [wall.
Flash'd back on the last glance I gave to thy

I look'd for thy temple, I look'd for my home,
And forgot for a moment my bondage to come;
I beheld but the death-fire that fed on thy fane, [geance in vain.
And the fast-fetter'd hands that made ven-

On many an eve, the high spot whence I gazed [blazed;
Had reflected the last beam of day as it
While I stood on the height and beheld the decline [thy shrine.
Of the rays from the mountain that shone on

And now on that mountain I stood on that day, [away!
But I mark'd not the twilight beam melting
Oh! would that the lightning had glared in its stead, [head!
And the thunderbolt burst on the conqueror's

But the gods of the Pagan shall never profane [reign;
The shrine where Jehovah disdain'd not to
And scatter'd and scorn'd as thy people may be,
Our worship, O Father! is only for Thee.

BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON WE SAT DOWN AND WEPT.

WE sat down and wept by the waters
Of Babel, and thought of the day
When our foe, in the hue of his slaughters!
Made Salem's high places his prey;
And ye, O her desolate daughters!
Were scatter'd all weeping away.

While sadly we gazed on the river
Which roll'd on in freedom below,
They demanded the song, but, oh, never
That triumph the stranger shall know!
May this right hand be wither'd forever,
Ere it string our high harp for the foe!

On the willow that harp is suspended,
O Salem! its sound should be free;
And the hour when thy glories were ended
But left me that token of thee:
And ne'er shall its soft tones be blended
With the voice of the spoiler by me!

THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB.

THE Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold, [gold;
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea, [Galilee.
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green, [seen:
That host with their banners at sunset were
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay wither'd and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast, [pass'd;
And breathed in the face of the foe as he
And the eyes of the sleepers wax'd deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and forever grew still!

nd there lay the steed with his nostril all
wide, [his pride;
ut through it there roll'd not the breath of
nd the foam of his gasping lay white on the
turf, [surf.
nd cold as the spray of the rock-beating

nd there lay the rider distorted and pale,
Vith the dew on his brow, and the rust on
his mail; [alone,
nd the tents were all silent, the banners
he lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

nd the widows of Ashur are loud in their
wail, [Baal!
nd the idols are broken in the temple of
nd the might of the Gentile, unsmote by
the sword, [Lord!
Iath melted like snow in the glance of the

A SPIRIT PASSED BEFORE ME.

FROM JOB.

A SPIRIT pass'd before me: I beheld
The face of immortality unveil'd—
Deep sleep came down on every eye save
mine—
And there it stood—all formless, but divine:
Along my bones the creeping flesh did quake;
And as my damp hair stiffen'd, thus it spake:
"Is man more just than God? Is man more
pure
Than He who deems even Seraphs insecure?
Creatures of clay—vain dwellers in the dust!
The moth survives you, and are ye more just?
Things of a day! you wither ere the night,
Heedless and blind to Wisdom's wasted
light!"

POEMS ON NAPOLEON.

ODE TO NAPOLEON.

"Expende Annibalem:—quot libras in duce summo
Invenies?" JUVENAL, Sat. x.

"The Emperor Nepos was acknowledged by the
nate, by the Italians, and by the Provincials of Gaul;
is moral virtues and military talents were loudly cele-
rated; and those who derived any private benefit
rom his government announced in prophetic strains
he restoration of public felicity. * * * By this shame-
ul abdication, he protracted his life a few years, in a
ery ambiguous state, between an Emperor and an
vile, till——."—GIBBON'S "Decline and Fall," vol. vi.,
. 229.

'Tis done—but yesterday a King!
And arm'd with Kings to strive—
And now thou art a nameless thing:
So abject—yet alive!
Is this the man of thousand thrones,
Who strew'd our earth with hostile bones,
And can he thus survive?
Since he, miscall'd the Morning Star,
Nor man nor fiend hath fallen so far.

Ill-minded man! why scourge thy kind
Who bow'd so low the knee?
By gazing on thyself grown blind,
Thou taught'st the rest to see.
With might unquestion'd—power to save—
Thine only gift hath been the grave,
To those that worshipp'd thee;
Nor till thy fall could mortals guess
Ambition's less than littleness!

Thanks for that lesson—it will teach
To after-warriors more
Than high Philosophy can preach,
And vainly preach'd before.
That spell upon the minds of men
Breaks never to unite again,
That led them to adore
Those Pagod things of sabre sway,
With fronts of brass, and feet of clay.

The triumph and the vanity,
The rapture of the strife *—
The earthquake voice of Victory,
To thee the breath of life;
The sword, the sceptre, and that sway
Which man seem'd made but to obey,
Wherewith renown was rife—
All quell'd!—Dark Spirit! what must be
The madness of thy memory!

The Desolator desolate!
The Victor overthrown!
The Arbiter of others' fate
A Suppliant for his own!
Is it some yet imperial hope
That with such change can calmly cope?
Or dread of death alone?
To die a prince—or live a slave—
Thy choice is most ignobly brave!

He who of old would rend the oak,†
Dream'd not of the rebound;
Chain'd by the trunk he vainly broke—
Alone—how look'd he round!
Thou, in the sternness of thy strength,
An equal deed has done at length,
And darker fate has found:
He fell, the forest prowlers' prey;
But thou must eat thy heart away!

The Roman,‡ when his burning heart
Was slaked with blood of Rome,
Threw down the dagger—dared depart
In savage grandeur, home:
He dared depart, in utter scorn
Of men that such a yoke had borne,
Yet left him such a doom!

* "Certaminis gaudia"—the expression of Attila in his harangue to his army, previous to the battle of Chalons, given in Cassiodorus.
† Milo Crotoniensis.
‡ Sylla.

His only glory was that hour
Of self-upheld abandon'd power.

The Spaniard,* when the lust of sway
Had lost its quickening spell,
Cast crowns for rosaries away,
An empire for a cell;
A strict accountant of his beads,
A subtle disputant on creeds,
His dotage trifled well:
Yet better had he neither known
A bigot's shrine, nor despot's throne.

But thou—from thy reluctant hand
The thunderbolt is wrung—
Too late thou leav'st the high command
To which thy weakness clung;
All Evil Spirit as thou art,
It is enough to grieve the heart
To see thine own unstrung;
To think that God's fair world hath been
The footstool of a thing so mean!

And Earth hath spilt her blood for him,
Who thus can hoard his own!
And Monarchs bow'd the trembling limb,
And thank'd him for a throne!
Fair Freedom! we may hold thee dear,
When thus thy mightiest foes their fear
In humblest guise have shown.
Oh! ne'er may tyrant leave behind
A brighter name to lure mankind!

Thine evil deeds are writ in gore,
Nor written thus in vain—
Thy triumphs tell of fame no more,
Or deepen every stain:
If thou hadst died as honor dies,
Some new Napoleon might arise,
To shame the world again—
But who would soar the solar height,
To set in such a starless night?

Weigh'd in the balance, hero dust
Is vile as vulgar clay;
Thy scales, Mortality! are just
To all that pass away:
But yet methought the living great
Some higher sparks should animate,
To dazzle and dismay:
Nor deem'd Contempt could thus make
Of these the Conquerors of the earth.

And she, proud Austria's mournful flower,†
Thy still imperial bride,
How bears her breast the torturing hour?
Still clings she to thy side?
Must she, too, bend: must she, too, share
Thy late repentance, long despair,
Thou throneless Homicide?
If still she loves thee, hoard that gem,—
'Tis worth thy vanish'd diadem!

Then haste thee to thy sullen Isle,
And gaze upon the sea;
That element may meet thy smile—
It ne'er was ruled by thee!
Or trace with thine all idle hand,
In loitering mood upon the sand,
That Earth is now as free!
That Corinth's pedagogue* hath now
Transferr'd his byword to thy brow.

Thou Timour! in his captive's cage,†
What thoughts will there be thine,
While brooding in thy prison'd rage,
But one—"The world *was* mine!"
Unless, like he of Babylon,
All sense is with thy sceptre gone,
Life will not long confine
That spirit pour'd so widely forth—
So long obey'd—so little worth!

Or, like the thief of fire from heaven,‡
Wilt thou withstand the shock?
And share with him, the unforgiven,
His vulture and his rock?
Foredoom'd by God—by man accurst,
And that last act, though not thy worst,
The very Fiend's arch mock;
He in his fall preserved his pride,
And, if a mortal, had as proudly died!

There was a day—there was an hour,
While Earth was Gaul's—Gaul thine—
When that immeasurable power
Unsated to resign,
Had been an act of purer fame
Than gathers round Marengo's name,
And gilded thy decline,
Through the long twilight of all time,
Despite some passing clouds of crime.

But thou, forsooth, must be a king,
And don the purple vest,
As if that foolish robe could wring
Remembrance from thy breast.
Where is that faded garment? where
The gewgaws thou wert fond to wear,
The star, the string, the crest?
Vain froward child of empire! say,
Are all thy playthings snatch'd away?

Where may the wearied eye repose
When gazing on the Great,
Where neither guilty glory glows,
Nor despicable state?
Yes—one—the first—the last—the best—
The Cincinnatus of the West,
Whom envy dared not hate,
Bequeath'd the name of Washington,
To make man blush there was but one!

ODE FROM THE FRENCH.

I.

We do not curse thee, Waterloo!
Though Freedom's blood thy plain bedew:
There 'twas shed, but is not sunk—

* Charles V., son of Juana of Spain and Philip the Handsome, succeeded his grandfather Ferdinand in 1516; became Emperor of Germany in 1519; abdicated in 1555.

† Maria Louisa.

* Dionysius of Sicily, who, after his fall, kept a school at Corinth.

† The cage of Bajazet, by order of Tamerlane.

‡ Prometheus, said to have stolen fire from heaven.

ising from each gory trunk,
ike the waterspout from ocean,
ith a strong and growing motion :
soars and mingles in the air,
ith that of lost Labedoyère—
ith that of him whose honor'd grave
ontains the "bravest of the brave."
crimson cloud it spreads and glows,
ut shall return to whence it rose ;
hen 'tis full 'twill burst asunder—
ever yet was heard such thunder
s then shall shake the world with wonder—
ever yet was seen such lightning
's o'er heaven shall then be bright'ning !
ike the Wormwood star foretold
y the sainted Seer of old,
nowering down a fiery flood,
urning rivers into blood.*

II.

he chief has fallen ! but not by you,
anquishers of Waterloo !
hen the soldier-citizen
way'd not o'er his fellow-men—
ave in deeds that led them on
here Glory smiled on Freedom's son—
ho, of all the despots banded,
With that youthful chief competed ?
Who could boast o'er France defeated,
ill lone Tyranny commanded ?
ill, goaded by ambition's sting,
he Hero sunk into the King ?
hen he fell :—so perish all
ho would men by man enthrall !

III.

nd thou, too, of the snow-white plume,
hose realm refused thee even a tomb, †
etter hadst thou still been leading
rance o'er hosts of hirelings bleeding,
han sold thyself to death and shame
or a meanly royal name ;
uch as he of Naples wears,
ho thy blood-bought title bears.
ittle didst thou deem, when dashing
On thy war-horse through the ranks
Like a stream which burst its banks,
hile helmets cleft, and sabres clashing,
one and shiver'd fast around thee—
f the fate at last which found thee !
as that haughty plume laid low
y a slave's dishonest blow ?
nce—as the moon sways o'er the tide,
roll'd in air, the warrior's guide ;
hrough the smoke-created night
Of the black and sulphurous fight,
The soldier raised his seeking eye
To catch that crest's ascendancy—
And, as it onward rolling rose,
So moved his heart upon our foes.
There, where death's brief pang was quickest,
And the battle's wreck lay thickest,
Strew'd beneath the advancing banner
Of the eagle's burning crest—
(There with thunder-clouds to fan her,
Who could then her wing arrest—
Victory beaming from her breast ?)
While the broken line enlarging
Fell, or fled along the plain ;
There be sure was Murat charging !
There he ne'er shall charge again !

IV.

O'er glories gone the invaders march,
Weeps Triumph o'er each levell'd arch—
But let Freedom rejoice,
With her heart in her voice ;
But her hand on her sword,
Doubly shall she be adored ;
France hath twice too well been taught
The "moral lesson" dearly bought—
Her safety sits not on a throne,
With Capet or Napoleon !
But in equal rights and laws,
Hearts and hands in one great cause—
Freedom such as God hath given
Unto all beneath His heaven,
With their breath, and from their birth,
Though Guilt would sweep it from the earth;
With a fierce and lavish hand
Scattering nations' wealth like sand ;
Pouring nations' blood like water,
In imperial seas of slaughter !

V.

But the heart and the mind,
And the voice of mankind,
Shall arise in communion—
And who shall resist that proud union ?
The time is past when swords subdued—
Man may die—the soul's renew'd :
Even in this low world of care
Freedom ne'er shall want an heir :
Millions breathe but to inherit
Her forever bounding spirit—
When once more her hosts assemble,
Tyrants shall believe—and tremble :
Smile they at this idle threat ?
Crimson tears will follow yet.

TO NAPOLEON.

FROM THE FRENCH.

MUST thou go, my glorious Chief,*
Sever'd from thy faithful few ?

* See Rev. viii. 7, etc.: "The first angel sounded, and ere followed hail and fire mingled with blood," etc. Ver. 8, "And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and the third part of the sea became blood," etc. Ver. 10, "And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp; and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters." Ver. 11, "And the name of the star is called Wormwood, and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter."

† Murat's remains are said to have been torn from the grave and burnt.

* "All wept, but particularly Savary, and a Polish officer, who had been exalted from the ranks by Bonaparte. He clung to his master's knees; wrote a letter to Lord Keith, entreating permission to accompany him, even in the most menial capacity, which could not be admitted."

Who can tell thy warriors' grief,
Maddening o'er that long adieu?
Woman's love and friendship's zeal,
Dear as both have been to me—
What are they to all I feel,
With a soldier's faith for thee?

Idol of the soldier's soul!
First in fight, but mightiest now;
Many could a world control;
Thee alone no doom can bow.
By thy side for years I dared
Death; and envied those who fell,
When their dying shout was heard,
Blessing him they served so well.*

Would that I were cold with those,
Since this hour I live to see;
When the doubts of coward foes
Scarce dare trust a man with thee,
Dreading each should set thee free!
Oh! although in dungeons pent,
All their chains were light to me,
Gazing on thy soul unbent.

Would the sycophants of him
Now so deaf to duty's prayer,
Were his borrow'd glories dim,
In his native darkness share?
Were that world this hour his own,
All thou calmly dost resign,
Could he purchase with that throne
Hearts like those which still are thine?

My chief, my king, my friend, adieu!
Never did I droop before;
Never to my sovereign sue,
All his foes I now implore:
All I ask is to divide
Every peril he must brave;
Sharing by the hero's side
His fall, his exile, and his grave.

ON THE STAR OF "THE LEGION OF HONOR."

FROM THE FRENCH.

Star of the brave! whose beam hath shed
Such glory o'er the quick and dead—
Thou radiant and adored deceit,
Which millions rush'd in arms to greet—
Wild meteor of immortal birth;
Why rise in Heaven to set on Earth?

Souls of slain heroes form'd thy rays;
Eternity flash'd through thy blaze:
The music of thy martial sphere
Was fame on high and honor here;
And thy light broke on human eyes,
Like a volcano of the skies.

Like lava rolled thy stream of blood,
And swept down empires with its flood;
Earth rock'd beneath thee to her base,
As thou didst lighten through all space;
And the shorn Sun grew dim in air,
And set while thou wert dwelling there.

Before thee rose, and with thee grew,
A rainbow of the loveliest hue,
Of three bright colors, each divine,*
And fit for that celestial sign;
For Freedom's hand had blended them,
Like tints in an immortal gem.

One tint was of the sunbeam's dyes;
One, the blue depth of Seraph's eyes;
One, the pure Spirit's veil of white
Had robed in radiance of its light:
The three so mingled did beseem
The texture of a heavenly dream.

Star of the brave! thy ray is pale,
And darkness must again prevail!
But, O thou Rainbow of the free!
Our tears and blood must flow for thee.
When thy bright promise fades away,
Our life is but a load of clay.

And Freedom hallows with her tread
The silent cities of the dead;
For beautiful in death are they
Who proudly fall in her array;
And soon, O Goddess, may we be
Forevermore with them or thee!

* "At Waterloo, one man was seen, whose left arm was shattered by a cannon-ball, to wrench it off with the other, and throwing it up in the air, exclaimed to his comrades, 'Vive l'Empereur, jusqu'a la mort!' There were many other instances of the like. This, however, you may depend on as true."—PRIVATE LETTER FROM BRUSSELS.

NAPOLEON'S FAREWELL.

FROM THE FRENCH.

Farewell to the Land where the gloom of my glory [name—
Arose and o'ershadowed the earth with her
She abandons me now, but the page of her story, [fame.
The brightest or blackest, is fill'd with my
I have warr'd with a world which vanquish'd me only [far;
When the meteor of conquest allured me too
I have coped with the nations which dread me thus lonely,
The last single captive to millions in war.

Farewell to thee, France! when thy diadem crown'd me,
I made thee the gem and the wonder of earth;
But thy weakness decrees I should leave as I found thee,
Decay'd in thy glory, and sunk in thy worth.
Oh! for the veteran hearts that were wasted
In strife with the storm, when their battles were won:
Then the Eagle, whose gaze in that moment was blasted, [sun!
Had still soar'd with eyes fix'd on victory's

Farewell to thee, France!—But when Liberty rallies [then—
Once more in thy regions, remember me
The violet still grows in the depth of thy valleys;

* The tricolor,

ough wither'd, thy tear will unfold it again.
t, yet I may baffle the hosts that surround
us, [voice—
d yet may thy heart leap awake to my

There are links which must break in the chain
that has bound us,
Then turn thee and call on the Chief of thy
choice!

POEMS TO THYRZA.

1811 TO 1812.

TO THYRZA.

Without a stone to mark the spot,
And say, what truth might well have
said,
By all, save one, perchance forgot,
Ah! wherefore art thou lowly laid?

By many a shore and many a sea
Divided, yet beloved in vain;
The past, the future fled to thee,
To bid us meet—no—ne'er again!

Could this have been—a word, a look,
That softly said, "We part in peace,"
Had taught my bosom how to brook,
With fainter sighs, thy soul's release.

And didst thou not, since Death for thee
Prepared a light and pangless dart,
Once long for him thou ne'er shalt see,
Who held, and holds thee in his heart?

Oh! who like him had watch'd thee here
Or sadly mark'd thy glazing eye,
In that dread hour ere death appear,
When silent sorrow fears to sigh,

Till all was past? But when no more
'Twas thine to reck of human woe,
Affection's heart-drops, gushing o'er,
Had flow'd as fast—as now they flow.

Shall they not flow, when many a day
In these, to me, deserted towers,
Ere call'd but for a time away,
Affection's mingling tears were ours?

Ours too the glance none saw beside,
The smile none else might understand;
The whisper'd thoughts of hearts allied,
The pressure of the thrilling hand;

The kiss, so guiltless and refined,
That Love each warmer wish forbore;
Those eyes proclaim'd so pure a mind,
Ev'n passion blush'd to plead for more.

The tone, that taught me to rejoice,
When prone, unlike thee, to repine;
The song celestial from thy voice,
But sweet to me from none but thine;

The pledge we wore—I wear it still,
But where is thine?—Ah! where art thou?

Oft have I borne the weight of ill,
But never bent beneath till now!

Well hast thou left in life's best bloom
The cup of woe for me to drain.
If rest alone be in the tomb,
I would not wish thee here again.

But if in worlds more blest than this
Thy virtues seek a fitter sphere,
Impart some portion of thy bliss,
To wean me from mine anguish here.

Teach me,—too early taught by thee!
To bear, forgiving and forgiven:
On earth thy love was such to me;
It fain would form my hope in heaven.

AWAY, AWAY, YE NOTES OF WOE!

Away, away, ye notes of woe!
Be silent, thou once soothing strain,
Or I must flee from hence—for oh!
I dare not trust those sounds again.
To me they speak of brighter days—
But lull the chords, for now, alas!
I must not think, I may not gaze,
On what I am—on what I was.

The voice that made those sounds more sweet
Is hush'd, and all their charms are fled;
And now their softest notes repeat
A dirge, an anthem o'er the dead!
Yes, Thyrza! yes, they breathe of thee,
Beloved dust: since dust thou art;
And all that once was harmony
Is worse than discord to my heart.

'Tis silent all!—but on my ear
The well-remember'd echoes thrill;
I hear a voice I would not hear,
A voice that now might well be still:
Yet oft my doubting soul 'twill shake,
E'en slumber owns its gentle tone,
Till consciousness will vainly wake
To listen, though the dream be flown.

Sweet Thyrza! waking as in sleep,
Thou art but now a lovely dream;
A star that trembled o'er the deep,
Then turn'd from earth its tender beam.
But he who through life's dreary way
Must pass when heaven is veil'd in wrath,
Will long lament the vanish'd ray
That scatter'd gladness o'er his path,

ONE STRUGGLE MORE, AND I AM FREE.

One struggle more, and I am free
From pangs that rend my heart in twain;
One last long sigh to love and thee,
Then back to busy life again.
It suits me well to mingle now
With things that never pleased before:
Though every joy is fled below,
What future grief can touch me more?

Then bring me wine, the banquet bring;
Man was not form'd to live alone:
I'll be that light, unmeaning thing
That smiles with all, and weeps with none.
It was not thus in days more dear,
It never would have been, but thou
Hast fled, and left me lonely here;
Thou'rt nothing—all are nothing now.

In vain my lyre would lightly breathe!
The smile that sorrow fain would wear
But mocks the woe that lurks beneath,
Like roses o'er a sepulchre.
Though gay companions o'er the bowl
Dispel awhile the sense of ill;
Though pleasure fires the maddening soul,
The heart,—the heart is lonely still!

On many a lone and lovely night
It soothed to gaze upon the sky;
For then I deem'd the heavenly light
Shone sweetly on thy pensive eye:
And oft I thought at Cynthia's noon,
When sailing o'er the Ægean wave,
"Now Thyrza gazes on that moon"—
Alas, it gleam'd upon her grave!

When stretch'd on fever's sleepless bed,
And sickness shrunk my throbbing veins,
"'Tis comfort still," I faintly said,
"That Thyrza cannot know my pains";
Like freedom to the time-worn slave,
A boon 'tis idle then to give,
Relenting Nature vainly gave
My life, when Thyrza ceased to live!

My Thyrza's pledge in better days,
When love and life alike were new!
How different now thou meet'st my gaze!
How tinged by time with sorrow's hue!
The heart that gave itself with thee
Is silent—ah, were mine as still!
Though cold as e'en the dead can be,
It feels, it sickens with the chill.

Thou bitter pledge! thou mournful token!
Though painful, welcome to my breast!
Still, still preserve that love unbroken,
Or break the heart to which thou'rt press'd.
Time tempers love, but not removes,
More hallow'd when its hope is fled:
Oh! what are thousand living loves
To that which cannot quit the dead?

EUTHANASIA.

When Time, or soon or late, shall bring
The dreamless sleep that lulls the dead,
Oblivion! may thy languid wing
Wave gently o'er my dying bed!

No band of friends or heirs be there,
To weep, or wish, the coming blow;
No maiden with dishevell'd hair,
To feel, or feign, decorous woe.

But silent let me sink to earth,
With no officious mourners near:
I would not mar one hour of mirth,
Nor startle friendship with a tear.

Yet Love, if Love in such an hour
Could nobly check its useless sighs,
Might then exert its latest power
In her who lives, and him who dies.

'Twere sweet, my Psyche, to the last
Thy features still serene to see:
Forgetful of its struggles past,
E'en Pain itself should smile on thee.

But vain the wish—for Beauty still
Will shrink, as shrinks the ebbing breath;
And women's tears, produced at will,
Deceive in life, unman in death.

Then lonely be my latest hour,
Without regret, without a groan;
For thousands Death hath ceased to lower
And pain been transient or unknown.

"Ay, but to die, and go," alas!
Where all have gone, and all must go!
To be the nothing that I was
Ere born to life and living woe!

Count o'er the joys thine hours have seen,
Count o'er thy days from anguish free,
And know, whatever thou hast been,
'Tis something better not to be.

AND THOU ART DEAD, AS YOUNG AND FAIR.

"Heu, quanto minus est cum reliquis versari quam tui meminisse!"

And art thou dead, as young and fair
As aught of mortal birth;
And form so soft, and charms so rare,
Too soon return'd to Earth!
Though earth received them in her bed,
And o'er the spot the crowd may tread
In carelessness or mirth,
There is an eye which could not brook
A moment on that grave to look.

I will not ask where thou liest low,
Nor gaze upon the spot;
There flowers or weeds at will may grow,
So I behold them not:
It is enough for me to prove
That what I loved, and long must love,
Like common earth can rot;
To me there needs no stone to tell,
'Tis nothing that I loved so well.

Yet did I love thee to the last
As fervently as thou,

Who didst not change through all the past,
And canst not alter now.
The love where Death has set his seal,
Nor age can chill, nor rival steal,
Nor falsehood disavow:
And, what were worse, thou canst not see
Or wrong, or change, or fault in me.

The better days of life were ours;
The worst can be but mine:
The sun that cheers, the storm that lowers,
Shall never more be thine.
The silence of that dreamless sleep
I envy now too much to weep;
Nor need I to repine
That all those charms have pass'd away,
I might have watch'd through long decay.

The flower in ripen'd bloom unmatch'd
Must fall the earliest prey;
Though by no hand untimely snatch'd,
The leaves must drop away:
And yet it were a greater grief
To watch it withering leaf by leaf,
Than see it pluck'd to-day;
Since earthly eye but ill can bear
To trace the change to foul from fair.

I know not if I could have borne
To see thy beauties fade;
The night that follow'd such a morn
Had worn a deeper shade:
Thy day without a cloud hath pass'd,
And thou wert lovely to the last;
Extinguish'd, not decay'd;
As stars that shoot along the sky
Shine brightest as they fall from high.

As once I wept, if I could weep,
My tears might well be shed,
To think I was not near to keep
One vigil o'er thy bed;
To gaze, how fondly! on thy face,
To hold thee in a faint embrace,
Uphold thy drooping head;
And show that love, however vain,
Nor thou nor I can feel again.

Yet how much less it were to gain
Though thou hast left me free,
The loveliest things that still remain,
Than thus remember thee!
The all of thine that cannot die
Through dark and dread Eternity
Returns again to me,
And more thy buried love endears
Than aught, except its living years.

IF SOMETIMES IN THE HAUNTS OF MEN.

If sometimes in the haunts of men
Thine image from my breast may fade,
The lonely hour presents again
The semblance of thy gentle shade:
And now that sad and silent hour
Thus much of thee can still restore,
And sorrow unobserved may pour
The plaint she dare not speak before.

Oh, pardon that in crowds awhile
I waste one thought I owe to thee,
And, self-condemn'd, appear to smile,
Unfaithful to thy memory!
Nor deem that memory less dear,
That then I seem not to repine;
I would not fools should overhear
One sigh that should be wholly *thine*.

If not the goblet pass unquaff'd,
It is not drain'd to banish care;
The cup must hold a deadlier draught,
That brings a Lethe for despair.
And could Oblivion set my soul
From all her troubled visions free,
I'd dash to earth the sweetest bowl
That drown'd a single thought of thee.

For wert thou vanish'd from my mind,
Where could my vacant bosom turn?
And who would then remain behind
To honor thine abandon'd Urn?
No, no—it is my sorrow's pride
That last dear duty to fulfil;
Though all the world forget beside
'Tis meet that I remember still.

For well I know that such had been
Thy gentle care for him, who now
Unmourn'd shall quit this mortal scene,
Where none regarded him but thou:
And, oh! I feel in *that* was given
A blessing never meant for me;
Thou wert too like a dream of heaven
For earthly love to merit thee.

DOMESTIC PIECES.

1816.

FARE THEE WELL.

"Alas! they had been friends in youth;
But whispering tongues can poison truth;
And constancy lives in realms above;
And life is thorny, and youth is vain;
And to be wroth with one we love,
Doth work like madness in the brain;
* * * *
But never either found another
To free the hollow heart from paining—
They stood aloof, the scars remaining,
Like cliffs which had been rent asunder.
A dreary sea now flows between,
But neither heat, nor frost, nor thunder
Shall wholly do away, I ween,
The marks of that which once hath been."
—Coleridge's "Christabel."

Fare thee well! and if forever,
Still forever, fare thee well:
Even though unforgiving, never
'Gainst thee shall my heart rebel.

Would that breast were bared before thee
Where thy head so oft hath lain,

While that placid sleep came o'er thee
Which thou ne'er can'st know again :
Would that breast, by thee glanced over,
Every inmost thought could show !
Then thou wouldst at last discover
'Twas not well to spurn it so.

Though the world for this commend thee—
Though it smile upon the blow,
Even its praises must offend thee,
Founded on another's woe :

Though my many faults defaced me,
Could no other arm be found,
Than the one which once embraced me,
To inflict a cureless wound ?

Yet, oh yet, thyself deceive not ;
Love may sink by low decay,
But by sudden wrench, believe not
Hearts can thus be torn away :

Still thine own its life retaineth,
Still must mine, though bleeding, beat ;
And the undying thought which paineth
Is—that we no more may meet.

These are words of deeper sorrow
Than the wail above the dead ;
Both shall live, but every morrow
Wake us from a widow'd bed.

And when thou wouldst solace gather,
When our child's first accents flow,
Wilt thou teach her to say "Father !"
Though his care she must forego ?

When her little hand shall press thee,
When her lip to thine is press'd,
Think of him whose prayer shall bless thee,
Think of him thy love had bless'd !

Should her lineaments resemble
Those thou never more mayst see,
Then thy heart will softly tremble
With a pulse yet true to me.

All my faults perchance thou knowest,
All my madness none can know ;
All my hopes, where'er thou goest,
Wither, yet with *thee* they go.

Every feeling hath been shaken,
Pride, which not a world could bow,
Bows to thee—by thee forsaken,
Even my soul forsakes me now :

But 'tis done—all words are idle—
Words from me are vainer still ;
But the thoughts we cannot bridle
Force their way without the will.

Fare thee well ! thus disunited,
Torn from every nearer tie,
Scar'd in heart, and lone, and blighted,
More than this I scarce can die.

A SKETCH.

"Honest—honest Iago !
If that thou be'st a devil, I cannot kill thee."
—SHAKSPEARE.

BORN in the garret, in the kitchen bred,
Promoted thence to deck her mistress' head ;
Next—for some gracious service unexpress'd,
And from its wages only to be guess'd—
Raised from the toilette to the table, where
Her wondering betters wait behind her chair.
With eye unmoved, and forehead unabash'd,
She dines from off the plate she lately wash'd.
Quick with the tale, and ready with the lie,
The genial confidante, and general spy,
Who could, ye gods, her next employment guess—
An only infant's earliest governess ! [taught so
She taught the child to read, and taught so well,
That she herself, by teaching, learn'd to spell.
An adept next in penmanship she grows,
As many a nameless slander deftly shows ;
What she had made the pupil of her art,
None know—but that high Soul secured the heart,
And panted for the truth it could not hear,
With longing breast and undeluded ear.
Foil'd was perversion by that youthful mind,
Which Flattery fool'd not, Baseness could not blind,
Deceit infect not, near Contagion soil,
Indulgence weaken, nor Example spoil,
Nor master'd Science tempt her to look down
On humbler talents with a pitying frown,
Nor Genius swell, nor beauty render vain,
Nor Envy ruffle to retaliate pain, [bow,
Nor Fortune change, Pride raise, nor Passion
Nor Virtue teach austerity—till now.
Serenely purest of her sex that live,
But wanting one sweet weakness—to forgive ;
Too shock'd at faults her soul can never know,
She deems that all could be like her below :
Foe to all vice, yet hardly Virtue's friend,
For Virtue pardons those she would amend.

But to the theme, now laid aside too long,
The baleful Burthen of this honest song :
Though all her former functions are no more,
She rules the circle which she served before.
If mothers—none know why—before her quake ;
If daughters dread her for the mother's sake ;
If early habits—those false links which bind
Ofttimes the loftiest to the meanest mind—
Have given her power too deeply to instil
The angry essence of her deadly will ;
If like a snake she steal within your walls,
Till the black slime betray her as she crawls ;
If like a viper to the heart she wind,
And leave the venom there she did not find ;
What marvel that this hag of hatred works
Eternal evil latent as she lurks,
To make a Pandemonium where she dwells,
And reign the Hecate of domestic hells ?
Skill'd by a touch to deepen scandal's tints
With all the kind mendacity of hints,
While mingling truth with falsehood—sneers with smiles—
A thread of candor with a web of wiles :
A plain blunt show of briefly-spoken seeming,
To hide her bloodless heart's soul-harden'd scheming ;
A lip of lies—a face form'd to conceal :
And, without feeling, mock at all who feel ;

With a vile mask the Gorgon would disown ;
A cheek of parchment, and an eye of stone.
Mark, how the channels of her yellow blood
Ooze to her skin, and stagnate there to mud,
Based like the centipede in saffron mail,
Or darker greenness of the scorpion's scale—
(For drawn from reptiles only may we trace
Congenial colors in that soul or face)—
Look on her features ! and behold her mind
As in a mirror of itself defined : [charged—
Look on the picture ! deem it not o'er-
There is no trait which might not be enlarged :
Yet true to "Nature's journeymen," who
made [trade—
This monster when their mistress left off
This female dog-star of her little sky,
Where all beneath her influence droop or die.

Oh ! wretch without a tear—without a
thought,
Save joy above the ruin thou hast wrought—
The time shalt come, nor long remote, when
thou
Shalt feel far more than thou inflictest now ;
Feel for thy vile self-loving self in vain,
And turn thee howling in unpitied pain.
May the strong curse of crush'd affections
light
Back on thy bosom with reflected blight !
And make thee in thy leprosy of mind
As loathsome to thyself as to mankind !
Fill all thy self-thoughts curdle into hate,
Black—as thy will for others would create :
Till thy hard heart be calcined into dust,
And thy soul welter in its hideous crust.
Oh, may thy grave be sleepless as the bed,
The widow'd couch of fire, that thou hast
spread ! [with prayer,
Then, when thou fain wouldst weary Heaven
Look on thine earthly victims—and despair !
Down to the dust !—and, as thou rott'st away,
Even worms shall perish on thy poisonous
clay.
But for the love I bore, and still must bear,
To her thy malice from all ties would tear—
Thy name—thy human name—to every eye
The climax of all scorn should hang on high,
Exalted o'er thy less abhorr'd compeers,
And festering in the infamy of years.

STANZAS TO AUGUSTA.

When all around grew drear and dark,
And reason half withheld her ray,
And hope but shed a dying spark
Which more misled my lonely way ;

In that deep midnight of the mind,
And that internal strife of heart,
When dreading to be deem'd too kind,
The weak despair—the cold depart !

When fortune changed, and love fled far,
And hatred's shafts flew thick and fast,
Thou wert the solitary star
Which rose and set not to the last.

Oh ! blest be thine unbroken light,
That watch'd me as a seraph's eye,
And stood between me and the night,
Forever shining sweetly nigh.

And when the cloud upon us came,
Which strove to blacken o'er thy ray—
Then purer spread its gentle flame,
And dash'd the darkness all away.

Still may thy spirit dwell on mine,
And teach it what to brave or brook—
There's more in one soft word of thine
Than in the world's defied rebuke.

Thou stood'st, as stands a lovely tree,
That still unbroke, though gently bent,
Still waves with fond fidelity
Its boughs above a monument.

The winds might rend, the skies might
pour,
But there thou wert—and still wouldst be
Devoted in the stormiest hour
To shed thy weeping leaves o'er me.

But thou and thine shall know no blight,
Whatever fate on me may fall ;
For Heaven in sunshine will requite
The kind—and thee the most of all.

Then let the ties of baffled love
Be broken—thine will never break ;
Thy heart can feel, but will not move ;
Thy soul, though soft, will never shake.

And these, when all was lost beside,
Were found and still are fixed in thee ;—
And bearing still a breast so tried,
Earth is no desert—ev'n to me.

STANZAS TO AUGUSTA.

Though the day of my destiny's over,
And the star of my fate hath declined,
Thy soft heart refused to discover
The faults which so many could find ;
Though thy soul with my grief was ac-
quainted,
It shrunk not to share it with me,
And the love which my spirit hath painted
It never hath found but in *thee*.

Then when nature around me is smiling,
The last smile which answers to mine,
I do not believe it beguiling,
Because it reminds me of thine ;
And when winds are at war with the ocean,
As the breasts I believed in with me,
If their billows excite an emotion,
It is that they bear me from *thee*.

Though the rock of my last hope is shiver'd,
And its fragments are sunk in the wave,
Though I feel that my soul is deliver'd
To pain—it shall not be its slave.
There is many a pang to pursue me : [temn ;
They may crush, but they shall not con-
They may torture, but shall not subdue me ;
'Tis of *thee* that I think—not of them.

Though human, thou didst not deceive me,
Though woman, thou didst not forsake,

Though loved, thou forborest to grieve me,
Though slander'd, thou never couldst shake;
Though trusted, thou didst not disclaim me;
Though parted, it was not to fly;
Though watchful, 'twas not to defame me,
Nor mute, that the world might belie.

Yet I blame not the world, nor despise it,
Nor the war of the many with one:
If my soul was not fitted to prize it,
'Twas folly not sooner to shun:
And if dearly that error hath cost me,
And more than I once could foresee,
I have found that, whatever it lost me,
It could not deprive me of *thee*.

From the wreck of the past, which hath perish'd,
Thus much I at least may recall,
It hath taught me that what I most cherish'd
Deserved to be dearest of all:
In the desert a fountain is springing,
In the wide waste there still is a tree,
And a bird in the solitude singing,
Which speaks to my spirit of *thee*.

EPISTLE TO AUGUSTA.

My sister! my sweet sister! if a name
Dearer and purer were, it should be thine;
Mountains and seas divide us, but I claim
No tears, but tenderness to answer mine:
Go where I will, to me thou art the same—
A loved regret which I would not resign.
There yet are two things in my destiny—
A world to roam through, and a home with thee.

The first were nothing—had I still the last,
It were the haven of my happiness;
But other claims and other ties thou hast,
And mine is not the wish to make them less.
A strange doom is thy father's son's, and past
Recalling, as it lies beyond redress;
Reversed for him our grandsire's fate of yore—
He had no rest at sea, nor I on shore.

If my inheritance of storms hath been
In other elements, and on the rocks
Of perils, overlook'd or unforeseen,
I have sustain'd my share of worldly shocks,
The fault was mine; nor do I seek to screen
My errors with defensive paradox;
I have been cunning in mine overthrow,
The careful pilot of my proper woe.

Mine were my faults, and mine be their reward:
My whole life was a contest, since the day
That gave me being, gave me that which marr'd
The gift—a fate or will that walk'd astray;
And I at times have found the struggle hard,
And thought of shaking off my bonds of clay:
But now I fain would for a time survive,
If but to see what next can well arrive.

Kingdoms and empires in my little day
I have outlived, and yet I am not old;
And when I look on this, the petty spray
Of my own years of trouble, which have roll'd
Like a wild bay of breakers, melts away:
Something—I know not what—does still uphold
A spirit of slight patience:—not in vain, even for its own sake, do we purchase pain.

Perhaps the workings of defiance stir
Within me—or perhaps a cold despair,
Brought on when ills habitually recur—
Perhaps a kinder clime, or purer air,
(For even to this may change of soul refer,
And with light armor we may learn to bear,)
Have taught me a strange quiet, which was not
The chief companion of a calmer lot.

I feel almost at times as I have felt in happy childhood, trees, and flowers, and brooks,
Which do remember me of where I dwelt
Ere my young mind was sacrificed to books,
Come as of yore upon me, and can melt
My heart with recognition of their looks;
And even at moments I could think I see
Some living thing to love—but none like thee.

Here are the Alpine landscapes which create
A fund for contemplation;—to admire
Is a brief feeling of a trivial date; but something worthier do such scenes inspire.
Here to be lonely is not desolate,
For much I view which I could most desire,
And, above all, a lake I can behold
Lovelier, not dearer, than our own of old

Oh that thou wert but with me!—but I grow
The fool of my own wishes, and forget
The solitude which I have vaunted so
Has lost its praise in this but one regret;
There may be others which I less may show:—
I am not of the plaintive mood, and yet
I feel an ebb in my philosophy,
And the tide rising in my alter'd eye.

I did remind thee of our own dear Lake,
By the old Hall which may be mine no more.
Leman's is fair; but think not I forsake
The sweet remembrance of a dearer shore:
Sad havoc Time must with my memory make,
Ere *that* or *thou* can fade these eyes before;
Though, like all things which I have loved, they are,
Resign'd forever, or divided far.

The world is all before me; I but ask of Nature that with which she will comply—
It is but in her summer's sun to bask,
To mingle with the quiet of her sky,
To see her gentle face without a mask,
And never gaze on it with apathy.
She was my early friend, and now shall be
My sister—till I look again on thee.

I can reduce all feelings but this one;
And that I would not;—for at length I see
Such scenes as those wherein my life begun.
The earliest—even the only paths for me—
Had I but sooner learnt the crowd to shun,
I had been better than I now can be;

he passions which have torn me would have
slept ;
had not suffer'd, and *thou* hadst not wept.

ith false Ambition what had I to do?
Little with Love, and least of all with Fame;
nd yet they came unsought, and with me
grew,
And made me all which they can make—a
let this was not the end I did pursue ; [name.
Surely I once beheld a nobler aim.
ut all is over—I am one the more
o baffled millions which have gone before.

nd for the future, this world's future may
From me demand but little of my care ;
have outlived myself by many a day,
Having survived so many things that were.
y years have been no slumber, but the prey
Of ceaseless vigils ; for I had the share
f life which might have fill'd a century,
efore its fourth in time had pass'd me by.

nd for the remnant which may be to come
I am content ; and for the past I feel
ot thankless,—for within the crowded sum
Of struggles, happiness at times would steal:
nd for the present, I would not benumb
My feelings further.—Nor shall I conceal
hat with all this I still can look around,
nd worship Nature with a thought profound.

or thee, my own sweet sister, in thy heart
I know myself secure, as thou in mine ;
e were and are—I am, even as thou art—
Beings who ne'er each other can resign ;
is the same, together or apart, [cline
From life's commencement to its slow de-
e are entwined ; let death come slow or fast,
he tie which bound the first endures the last!

ENDORSEMENT TO THE DEED OF SEPARATION.

IN THE APRIL OF 1816.

A YEAR ago, you swore, fond she!
"To love, to honor," and so forth :
Such was the vow you pledged to me,
And here's exactly what 'tis worth.

THE DREAM.

I.

UR life is twofold : Sleep hath its own world,
boundary between the things misnamed
eath and existence: Sleep hath its own world,
nd a wide realm of wild reality.
nd dreams in their development have breath,
nd tears, and tortures, and the touch of joy;
hey leave a weight upon our waking
thoughts,
hey take a weight from off our waking toils,
hey do divide our being ; they become
portion of ourselves as of our time,
nd look like heralds of eternity ; [speak
hey pass like spirits of the past—they
ike sibyls of the future ; they have power—
The tyranny of pleasure and of pain ; [will,
They make us what we were not—what they
And shake us with the vision that's gone by,
The dread of vanish'd shadows—are they so?
Is not the past all shadow?—What are they?
Creations of the mind?—The mind can make
Substance, and people planets of its own
With beings brighter than have been, and give
A breath to forms which can outlive all flesh.
I would recall a vision which I dream'd
Perchance in sleep ; for in itself a thought,
A slumbering thought, is capable of years,
And curdles a long life into one hour.

II.

I saw two beings in the hues of youth
Standing upon a hill, a gentle hill,
Green, and of mild declivity, the last
As 'twere the cape of a long ridge of such,
Save that there was no sea to lave its base,
But a most living landscape, and the wave
Of woods and cornfields, and the abodes of
men
Scatter'd at intervals, and wreathing smoke
Arising from such rustic roofs ;—the hill
Was crown'd with a peculiar diadem
Of trees, in circular array, so fix'd,
Not by the sport of nature, but of man :
These two, a maiden and a youth, were there
Gazing—the one on all that was beneath,
Fair as herself—but the boy gazed on her ;
And both were young, and one was beautiful:
And both were young—yet not alike in youth.
As the sweet moon on the horizon's verge,
The maid was on the eve of womanhood ;
The boy had fewer summers, but his heart
Had far outgrown his years, and to his eye
There was but one beloved face on earth,
And that was shining on him ; he had look'd
Upon it till it could not pass away ;
He had no breath, no being, but in hers ;
She was his voice ; he did not speak to her,
But trembled on her words ; she was his sight,
For his eye follow'd hers, and saw with hers,
Which color'd all his objects :—he had ceased
To live within himself ; she was his life,
The ocean to the river of his thoughts,
Which terminated all : upon a tone,
A touch of hers, his blood would ebb and flow,
And his cheek change tempestuously—his
heart
Unknowing of its cause of agony.
But she in these fond feelings had no share :
Her sighs were not for him ; to her he was
Even as a brother—but no more ; 'twas much,
For brotherless she was, save in the name
Her infant friendship had bestow'd on him ;
Herself the solitary scion left
Of a time-honor'd race.—It was a name
Which pleased him, and yet pleased him not—
and why? [loved
Time taught him a deep answer—when she
Another ; even *now* she loved another,
And on the summit of that hill she stood
Looking afar if yet her lover's steed
Kept pace with her expectancy, and flew.

III.

A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
There was an ancient mansion, and before
Its walls there was a steed caparison'd:
Within an antique Oratory stood
The Boy of whom I spake;—he was alone,
And pale, and pacing to and fro: anon
He sate him down, and seized a pen, and traced [lean'd
Words which I could not guess of; then he
His bow'd head on his hands, and shook as 'twere
With a convulsion—then arose again, [tear
And with his teeth and quivering hands did
What he had written, but he shed no tears,
And he did calm himself, and fix his brow
Into a kind of quiet: as he paused,
The Lady of his love re-enter'd there;
She was serene and smiling then, and yet
She knew she was by him beloved,—she knew, [heart
For quickly comes such knowledge, that his
Was darken'd with her shadow, and she saw
That he was wretched, but she saw not all.
He rose, and with a cold and gentle grasp
He took her hand; a moment o'er his face
A tablet of unutterable thoughts
Was traced, and then it faded, as it came;
He dropp'd the hand he held, and with slow
Retired, but not as bidding her adieu, [steps
For they did part with mutual smiles; he pass'd
From out the massy gate of that old Hall,
And mounting on his steed he went his way;
And ne'er repass'd that hoary threshold more.

IV.

A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
The Boy was sprung to manhood; in the wilds
Of fiery climes he made himself a home,
And his soul drank their sunbeams; he was girt
With strange and dusky aspects; he was not
Himself like what he had been; on the sea
And on the shore he was a wanderer;
There was a mass of many images
Crowded like waves upon me, but he was
A part of all; and in the last he lay
Reposing from the noontide sultriness,
Couch'd among fallen columns, in the shade
Of ruin'd walls that had survived the names
Of those who rear'd them; by his sleeping side [steeds
Stood camels grazing, and some goodly
Were fasten'd near a fountain; and a man,
Clad in a flowing garb, did watch the while,
While many of his tribe slumber'd around:
And they were canopied by the blue sky,
So cloudless, clear, and purely beautiful,
That God alone was to be seen in heaven.

V.

A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
The Lady of his love was wed with One
Who did not love her better;—in her home
A thousand leagües from his—her native home,
She dwelt, begirt with growing Infancy,
Daughters and sons of Beauty,—but behold!
Upon her face there was the tint of grief,
The settled shadow of an inward strife,
And an unquiet drooping of the eye,
As if its lid were charged with unshed tears.
What could her grief be?—she had all she loved;
And he who had so loved her was not there
To trouble with bad hopes, or evil wish,
Or ill-repress'd affliction, her pure thoughts.
What could her grief be?—she had loved him not, [loved;
Nor given him cause to deem himself be-
Nor could he be a part of that which prey'd
Upon her mind—a spectre of the past.

VI.

A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
The Wanderer was return'd.—I saw him stand
Before an altar—with a gentle bride; [made
Her face was fair, but was not that which
The starlight of his Boyhood. As he stood
Even at the altar, o'er his brow there came
The self-same aspect, and the quivering shock
That in the antique Oratory shook
His bosom in its solitude; and then—
As in that hour—a moment o'er his face
The tablet of unutterable thoughts
Was traced,—and then it faded as it came,
And he stood calm and quiet, and he spoke
The fitting vows, but heard not his own words, [see
And all things reel'd around him; he could
Not that which was, nor that which should have been—
But the old mansion, and the accustom'd hall,
And the remember'd chambers, and the place,
The day, the hour, the sunshine, and the shade,
All things pertaining to that place and hour,
And her who was his destiny,—came back
And thrust themselves between him and the light;
What business had they there at such a time?

VII.

A change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
The Lady of his love:—oh! she was changed
As by the sickness of the soul; her mind
Had wander'd from its dwelling, and her eyes,
They had not their own lustre, but the look
Which is not of the earth; she was become
The queen of a fantastic realm; her thoughts
Were combinations of disjointed things;
And forms impalpable and unperceived
Of others' sight familiar were to hers.
And this the world calls frenzy; but the wise
Have a far deeper madness, and the glance
Of melancholy is a fearful gift;
What is it but the telescope of truth?
Which strips the distance of its fantasies,
And brings life near in utter nakedness,
Making the cold reality too real!

VIII.

change came o'er the spirit of my dream.
he Wanderer was alone as heretofore
he beings which surrounded him were gone,
r were at war with him ; he was a mark
or blight and desolation, compass'd round
ith Hatred and Contention ; Pain was mix'd
h all which was served up to him, until,
ike to the Pontic monarch* of old days,
e fed on poisons, and they had no power,
ut were a kind of nutriment ; he lived
hrough that which had been death to many
men, [the stars
nd made him friends of mountains : with
nd the quick Spirit of the Universe
e held his dialogues ; and they did teach
o him the magic of their mysteries ;
o him the book of Night was open'd wide,
nd voices from the deep abyss revcal'd
marvel and a secret.—Be it so.

IX.

y dream was past : it had no further change.
was of a strange order, that the doom
f these two creatures should be thus traced
lmost like a reality—the one [out
o end in madness—both in misery.

LINES

ON HEARING THAT LADY BYRON WAS ILL.

ND thou wert sad—yet I was not with thee !
And thou wert sick, and yet I was not near;
ethought that joy and health alone could be
here I was *not*—and pain and sorrow here !
nd is it thus?—it is as I foretold,
And shall be more so ; for the mind recoils
pon itself, and the wreck'd heart lies cold,
While heaviness collects the shatter'd spoils.
; is not in the storm nor in the strife
We feel benumb'd, and wish to be no more,
But in the after-silence on the shore,
hen all is lost, except a little life.
am too well avenged !—but 'twas my right !
Whate'er my sins might be, *thou* wert not
sent
o be the Nemesis who should requite—

Nor did Heaven choose so near an instru-
Mercy is for the merciful—if thou [ment,
Hast been of such, 'twill be accorded now.
Thy nights are banish'd from the realms of
sleep !— [feel
Yes ! they may flatter thee, but thou shalt
A hollow agony which will not heal,
For thou art pillow'd on a curse too deep ;
Thou hast sown in my sorrow, and must reap
The bitter harvest in a woe as real !
I have had many foes, but none like thee ;
For 'gainst the rest myself I could defend,
And be avenged, or turn them into friend;
But thou in safe implacability [ness shielded
Hadst naught to dread—in thy own weak-
And in my love, which hath but too much
yielded, [spare ;
And spared, for thy sake, some I should not
And thus upon the world—trust in thy truth,
And the wild fame of my ungovern'd youth—
On things that were not, and on things that
are—
Even upon such a basis hast thou built
A monument, whose cement hath been guilt !
The moral Clytemnestra of thy lord,
And hew'd down with an unsuspected sword,
Fame, peace, and hope—and all the better life
Which, but for this cold treason of thy
heart, [strife,
Might still have risen from out the grave of
And found a nobler duty than to part.
But of thy virtues didst thou make a vice,
Trafficking with them in a purpose cold,
For present anger, and for future gold—
And buying other's grief at any price.
And thus once enter'd into crooked ways,
The early truth, which was thy proper praise,
Did not still walk beside thee—but at times,
And with a breast unknowing its own crimes,
Deceit, averments incompatible,
Equivocations, and the thoughts which dwell
In Janus-spirits—the significant eye
Which learns to lie with silence—the pretext
Of prudence, with advantages annex'd—
The acquiescence in all things which tend,
No matter how, to the desired end—
All found a place in thy philosophy.
The means were worthy, and the end is won—
I would not do by thee as thou hast done !

* Mithridates of Pontus.

SATIRES.

ENGLISH BARDS AND SCOTCH REVIEWERS:

A SATIRE.—WRITTEN 1808.

"I had rather be a kitten, and cry mew!
Than one of these same metre ballad-mongers."
SHAKSPEARE.

"Such shameless bards we have; and yet 'tis true,
There are as mad, abandon'd critics too."
POPE.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

ALL my friends, learned and unlearned, have urged me not to publish this Satire with my name. If I were to be "turned from the career of my humor by quibbles quick, and paper bullets of the brain," I should have complied with their counsel; but I am not to be terrified by abuse, or bullied by reviewers, with or without

arms. I can safely say that I have attacked none personally, who did not commence on the offensive. An author's works are public property: he who purchases may judge, and publish his opinion if he pleases; and the authors I have endeavored to commemorate may do by me as I have done by them. I dare say they will succeed better in condemning my scribblings than in mending their own. But my object is not to prove that I can write well, but, if possible, to make others write better.

As the poem has met with far more success than I expected, I have endeavored in this edition to make some additions and alterations, to render it more worthy of public perusal.

In the First Edition of this Satire, published anonymously, fourteen lines on the subject of Bowles' Pope were written by, and inserted at the request of, an ingenious friend of mine,* who has now in press a volume of poetry. In the present edition they are erased, and some of my own substituted in their stead; my only reason for this being that which I conceive would operate with any other person in the same manner,—a determination not to publish with my name any production which was not entirely and exclusively my own composition.

With regard to the real talents of many of the poetical persons whose performances are mentioned or alluded to in the following pages, it is presumed by the author that there can be little difference of opinion in the public at large; though, like other sectaries, each has his separate tabernacle of proselytes, by whom his abilities are overrated, his faults overlooked, and his metrical canons received without scruple and without consideration. But the unquestionable possession of considerable genius by several of the writers here censured, renders their mental prostitution more to be regretted. Imbecility may be pitied, or, at worst, laughed at and forgotten; perverted powers demand the most decided reprehension. No one can wish more than the author, that some known and able writer had undertaken their exposure; but Mr. Gifford has devoted himself to Massinger, and in the absence of the regular physician, a country practitioner may, in cases of absolute necessity, be allowed to prescribe his nostrum to prevent the extension of so deplorable an epidemic, provided there be no quackery in his treatment of the malady. A caustic is here offered, as it is to be feared nothing short of actual cautery can recover the numerous patients afflicted with the present prevalent and distressing rabies for rhyming.

As to the Edinburgh Reviewers, it would indeed require a Hercules to crush the Hydra; but if the author succeeds in merely "bruising one of the heads of the serpent," though his own hand should suffer in the encounter, he will be amply satisfied.

* Mr. Hobhouse.

STILL must I hear?—shall hoarse Fitzgerald
His creaking couplets in a tavern hall, [bawl*
And I not sing, lest, haply, Scotch reviews
Should dub me scribbler, and denounce my muse? [wrong:
Prepare for rhyme—I'll publish, right or
Fools are my theme, let satire be my song.

Oh! nature's noblest gift—my grey-goose quill!
Slave of my thoughts, obedient to my will,
Torn from thy parent bird to form a pen,
That mighty instrument of little men!
The pen! foredoom'd to aid the mental throes
Of brains that labor, big with verse or prose,
Though nymphs forsake, and critics may deride,
The lover's solace and the author's pride.
What wits, what poets, dost thou daily raise!
How frequent is thy use, how small thy praise!
Condemn'd at length to be forgotten quite,
With all the pages which 'twas thine to write.
But thou, at least, mine own especial pen!
Once laid aside, but now assumed again,
Our task complete, like Hamet's, shall be free;†
Though spurn'd by others, yet beloved by me:
Then let us soar to-day; no common theme,
No eastern vision, no distemper'd dream
Inspires—our path, though full of thorns, is plain:
Smooth be the verse, and easy be the strain.

When Vice triumphant holds her sovereign
Obey'd by all who nought beside obey; [sway,
When Folly, frequent harbinger of crime;
Bedecks her cap with bells of every chime;
When knaves and fools combined o'er all prevail,
And weigh their justice in a golden scale:
E'en then the boldest start from public sneers,
Afraid of shame, unknown to other fears,
More darkly sin, by satire kept in awe, [law.
And shrink from ridicule, though not from

Such is the force of wit! but not belong
To me the arrows of satiric song:
The royal vices of our age demand
A keener weapon, and a mightier hand.
Still there are follies, e'en for me to chase,
And yield at least amusement in the race:
Laugh when I laugh, I seek no other fame;
The cry is up, and scribblers are my game.
Speed, Pegasus!—ye strains of great and small,
Ode, epic, elegy, have at you all!
I too can scrawl, and once upon a time
I pour'd along the town a flood of rhyme:
A schoolboy freak, unworthy praise or blame:
I printed—older children do the same.
'Tis pleasant, sure, to see one's name in print;
A book's a book, although there's nothing in't.
Not that a title's sounding charm can save
Or scrawl or scribbler from an equal grave:
This Lambe must own, since his patrician name [shame.*
Fail'd to preserve the spurious farce from
No matter, George continues still to write,†
Though now the name is veil'd from public sight.
Moved by the great example, I pursue
The self-same road, but make my own review:
Not seek great Jeffrey's, yet like him will be
Self-constituted judge of poesy.

A man must serve his time to every trade
Save censure—critics all are ready made.
Take hackneyed jokes from Miller, got by rote,
With just enough of learning to misquote;
A mind well skill'd to find or forge a fault;

* IMITATION:
"Semper ego auditor tantum? nunquamne reponam,
Vexatus toties rauci Theseide Codri?"—
JUVENAL, Sat. I.

Mr. Fitzgerald, facetiously termed by Cobbett the "Small Beer Poet," inflicts his annual tribute of verse on the "Literary Fund": not content with writing, he spouts in person, after the company have imbibed a reasonable quantity of bad port, to enable them to sustain the operation.

† Cid Hamet Benengeli promises repose to his pen in the last chapter of "Don Quixote." Oh that our voluminous gentry would follow the example of Cid Hamet Benengeli!

* This ingenious youth is mentioned more particularly, with his production, in another place.

† In the "Edinburgh Review."

turn for punning, call it Attic salt ;
Jeffrey go, be silent and discreet,
is pay is just ten sterling pounds per sheet :
ear not to lie, 'twill seem a sharper hit ; [wit.
rink not from blasphemy, 'twill pass for
re not for feeling—pass your proper jest,
nd stand a critic, hated, yet caress'd.

And shall we own such judgment? No : as
ek roses in December—ice in June ; [soon
ope constancy in wind, or corn in chaff ;
elieve a woman or an epitaph,
any other thing that's false, before
u trust in critics, who themselves are sore ;
r yield one single thought to be misled
Jeffrey's heart, or Lambe's Bœotian head.*
these young tyrants,† by themselves mis-
placed,
mbined usurpers on the throne of taste ;
these, when authors bend in humble awe,
nd hail their voice as truth, their word as
law— [spare,
hile these are censors, 'twould be sin to
hile such are critics, why should I forbear?
t yet, so near all modern worthies run,
is doubtful whom to seek, or whom to shun ;
r know we when to spare, or where to strike,
ir bards and censors are so much alike.

Then should you ask me, why I venture o'er‡
e path that Pope and Gifford trod before :
not yet sicken'd, you can still proceed :
on ; my rhyme will tell you as you read.
But hold!" exclaims a friend, "here's some
neglect :
is—that—and t'other line seem incorrect."
hat then? the self-same blunder Pope has
got, [not :"—
nd careless Dryden—"Ay, but Pye has
deed!—'tis granted, faith!—but what care
I?
tter to err with Pope than shine with Pye.

Time was, ere yet in these degenerate days
noble themes obtain'd mistaken praise,
hen sense and wit with poesy allied,
fabled graces, flourish'd side by side ;
rom the same fount their inspiration drew,
nd, rear'd by taste, bloom'd fairer as they
grew.
hen, in this happy isle, a Pope's pure strain
ought the rapt soul to charm, nor sought in
vain ;
polish'd nation's praise aspired to claim,
nd raised the people's, as the poet's fame.
ke him great Dryden pour'd the tide of
song, [strong.
stream less smooth, indeed, yet doubly

Then Congreve's * scenes could cheer, or Otway's † melt—
For nature then an English audience felt.
But why these names, or greater still, retrace,
When all to feebler bards resign their place?
Yet to such times our lingering looks are cast,
When taste and reason with those times are past.
Now look around, and turn each trifling page,
Survey the precious works that please the age;
This truth at least let satire's self allow,
No dearth of bards can be complained of now.
The loaded press beneath her labor groans,
And printer's devils shake their weary bones;
While Southey's epics cram the creaking shelves, [twelves.
And Little's ‡ lyrics shine in hot-press'd
Thus saith the preacher; "Nought beneath the sun [run :
Is new;" yet still from change to change we
What varied wonders tempt us as they pass!
The cow-pox, tractors, galvanism, and gas,
In turns appear, to make the vulgar stare,
Till the swoll'n bubble bursts—and all is air!
Nor less new schools of Poetry arise,
Where dull pretenders grapple for the prize :
O'er taste awhile these pseudo-bards prevail ;
Each country book-club bows the knee to Baal,
And, hurling lawful genius from the throne,
Erects a shrine and idol of its own ;
Some leaden calf—but whom it matters not,
From soaring Southey down to grovelling Stott.§

Behold! in various throngs the scribbling crew,
For notice eager, pass in long review : [race;
Each spurs his jaded Pegasus apace,
And rhyme and blank maintain an equal
Sonnets on sonnets crowd, and ode on ode ;
And tales of terror jostle on the road ;
Immeasurable measures move along ;
For simpering folly loves a varied song,
To strange mysterious dulness still the friend,
Admires the strain she cannot comprehend.
Thus Lays of Minstrels—may they be the last!‖— [blast ;
On half-strung harps whine mournful to the

Messrs. Jeffrey and Lambe are the Alpha and Omega of the first and the last, of the "Edinburgh Review ;" to others are mentioned hereafter.

IMITATION :

"Stulta est Clementia, cum tot ubique
—— occurras perituræ parcere chartæ."—
JUVENAL, Sat. I.

IMITATION :

"Cur tamen hoc libeat potius decurrere campo
Per quem magnus equos Auruncæ flexit alumnus :
Si vacat et placidi rationem admittitis, edam."—
JUVENAL, Sat. I.

* Dramatist ; author of "Love for Love," etc., etc.

† A dramatist; the author of "Venice Preserved," etc., etc.

‡ T. Moore, who published at first under the name of Thomas Little.

§ Stott, better known in the "Morning Post" by the name of Hafiz. This person is at present the most profound explorer of the bathos. I remember, when the reigning family left Portugal, a special ode of Master Stott's beginning thus (Stott loquitur quoad Hibernia) :

"Princely offspring of Braganza,
Erin greets thee with a stanza," etc.

Also a sonnet to Rats, well worthy of the subject, and a most thundering ode, commencing as follows :

"Oh for a lay! loud as the surge
That lashes Lapland's sounding shore!"

Lord have mercy on us! the "Lay of the last Minstrel" was nothing to this.

‖ See the "Lay of the Last Minstrel," passim. Never was any plan so incongruous and absurd as the groundwork of this production. The entrance of Thunder and Lightning prologuising to Bayes' Tragedy, unfortunately takes away the merit of originality from the dialogue between Messieurs the Spirits of Flood and Fell in the first canto. Then we have the amiable William

While mountain spirits prate to river sprites,
That dames may listen to the sound at nights;
And goblin brats, of Gilpin Horner's brood,*
Decoy young border nobles through the wood,
And skip at every step, Lord knows how high,
And frighten foolish babes, the Lord knows why;
While high-born ladies in their magic cell,
Forbidding knights to read who cannot spell,
Despatch a courier to a wizard's grave,
And fight with honest men to shield a knave.

Next view in state, proud prancing on his
The golden-crested haughty Marmion, [roan,
Now forging scrolls, now foremost in the fight,
Not quite a felon, yet but half a knight,
The gibbet or the field prepared to grace;
A mighty mixture of the great and base.
And think'st thou, Scott! by vain conceit perchance,
On public taste to foist thy stale romance,
Though Murray with his Miller may combine
To yield thy muse just half a crown per line?
No! when the sons of song descend to trade,
Their bays are sear, their former laurels fade.
Let such forego the poet's sacred name,
Who rack their brains for lucre, not for fame:
Still for stern Mammon may they toil in vain!
And sadly gaze on gold they cannot gain!
Such be their meed, such still the just reward
Of prostituted muse and hireling bard!
For this we spurn Apollo's venal son,
And bid a long "good-night to Marmion."†

These are the themes that claim our plaudits now; [bow;
These are the bards to whom the muse must
While Milton, Dryden, Pope, alike forgot,
Resign their hallow'd bays to Walter Scott.

The time has been, when yet the muse was young,
When Homer swept the lyre, and Maro sung,
An epic scarce ten centuries could claim,
While awe-struck nations hail'd the magic name:

The work of each immortal bard appears
The single wonder of a thousand years.*
Empires have moulder'd from the face of earth, [them birth,
Tongues have expired with those who gave
Without the glory such a strain can give,
As even in ruin bids the language live.
Not so with us, though minor bards content,
On one great work a life of labor spent;
With eagle pinion soaring to the skies,
Behold the ballad-monger Southey rise!
To him let Camoëns, Milton, Tasso yield,
Whose annual strains, like armies, take the field.
First in the ranks see Joan of Arc advance,
The scourge of England, and the boast of France!
Though burnt by wicked Bedford for a witch,
Behold her statue placed in glory's niche;
Her fetters burst, and just released from prison,
A virgin phœnix from her ashes risen.
Next see tremendous Thalaba come on,†
Arabia's monstrous, wild, and wondrous son;
Domdaniel's dread destroyer, who o'erthrew
More mad magicians than the world e'er knew.
Immortal hero! all thy foes o'ercome,
Forever reign—the rival of Tom Thumb!
Since startled metre fled before thy face,
Well wert thou doom'd the last of all thy race!
Well might triumphant genii bear thee hence,
Illustrious conqueror of common sense!
Now, last and greatest, Madoc spreads his sails,
Cacique in Mexico, and prince in Wales;
Tells us strange tales, as other travellers do,
More old than Mandeville's, and not so true.
O! Southey! Southey! cease thy varied song!‡
A bard may chant too often and too long:
As thou art strong in verse, in mercy spare!
A fourth, alas, were more than we could bear.
But if, in spite of all the world can say,
Thou still wilt verseward plod thy weary way;
If still in Berkley ballads most uncivil,
Thou wilt devote old women to the devil,§

---

of Deloraine, "a stark mosstrooper," videlicet, a happy compound of poacher, sheep-stealer and highwayman. The propriety of his magical lady's injunction not to read can only be equalled by his candid acknowledgment of his independence of the trammels of spelling, although, to use his own elegant phrase, "'twas his neck-verse at Harribee," i. e. the gallows.

* The biography of Gilpin Horner, and the marvellous pedestrian page, who travelled twice as fast as his master's horse, without the aid of seven-leagued boots, are "chefs-d'œuvre" in the improvement of taste. For incident we have the invisible, but by no means sparing box on the ear bestowed on the page, and the entrance of a knight and charger into the castle, under the very natural disguise of a wain of hay. Marmion, the hero of the latter romance, is exactly what William of Deloraine would have been, had he been able to read and write. The poem was manufactured for Messrs. Constable, Murray and Miller, worshipful book-sellers, in consideration of the receipt of a sum of money: and truly, considering the inspiration, it is a very creditable production. If Mr. Scott will write for hire, let him do his best for his paymaster, but not disgrace his genius, which is undoubtedly great, by a repetition of black-letter ballad imitations.

† "Good-night to Marmion"—the pathetic and also prophetic exclamation of Henry Blount, Esquire, on the death of honest Marmion,

* As the "Odyssey" is so closely connected with the story of the "Iliad," they may almost be classed as one grand historical poem. In alluding to Milton and Tasso, we consider the "Paradise Lost" and "Gierusalemme Liberata" as their standard efforts; since neither the "Jerusalem Conquered" of the Italian, nor the "Paradise Regained" of the English bard, obtained a proportionate celebrity to their former poems. Query: Which of Mr. Southey's will survive?

† "Thalaba," Mr. Southey's second poem, is written in open defiance of precedent and poetry. Mr. S. wished to produce something novel, and succeeded to a miracle. "Joan of Arc" was marvellous enough, but "Thalaba" was one of those poems "which," in the words of Porson, "will be read when Homer and Virgil are forgotten, but—not till then."

‡ We beg Mr. Southey's pardon; "Madoc disdains the degraded title of epic." See his preface. Why is epic degraded? and by whom? Certainly the late romaunts of Masters Cottle, Laureat Pye, Ogilvy, Hole, and gentle Mistress Cowley, have not exalted the epic muse; but as Mr. Southey's poem "disdains the appellation," allow us to ask—Has he substituted anything better in its stead? or must he be content to rival Sir Richard Blackmore in the quantity as well as quality of his verse?

§ See "The Old Woman of Berkley," a ballad by Mr Southey, wherein an aged gentlewoman is carried away by Beelzebub on a "high trotting horse."

The babe unborn thy dread intent may rue :
God help thee," Southey, and thy readers too.*

Next comes the dull disciple of thy school,
That mild apostate from poetic rule,
The simple Wordsworth, framer of a lay
As soft as evening in his favorite May,
Who warns his friend "to shake off toil and trouble, [double ;"†
And quit his books, for fear of growing
Who, both by precept and example, shows
That prose is verse, and verse is merely prose ;
Convincing all, by demonstration plain,
Poetic souls delight in prose insane ;
And Christmas stories tortured into rhyme
Contain the essence of the true sublime.
Thus, when he tells the tale of Betty Foy,
The idiot mother of "an idiot boy" ;
A moon-struck, silly lad, who lost his way,
And, like his bard, confounded night with day ;‡
So close on each pathetic part he dwells,
And each adventure so sublimely tells,
That all who view the "idiot in his glory,"
Conceive the bard the hero of the story.

Shall gentle Coleridge pass unnoticed here,
To turgid ode and tumid stanza dear ?
Though themes of innocence amuse him best,
Yet still obscurity's a welcome guest.
If Inspiration should her aid refuse
To him who takes a pixy for a muse,§
Yet none in lofty numbers can surpass
The bard who soars to elegise an ass.
So well the subject suits his noble mind,
He brays the laureat of the long-ear'd tribe.

Oh ! wonder-working Lewis ! monk or bard,
Who fain wouldst make Parnassus a churchyard !
Lo ! wreaths of yew, not laurel, bind thy brow,
Thy muse a sprite, Apollo's sexton thou !
Whether on ancient tombs thou tak'st thy stand,
By gibb'ring spectres hail'd, thy kindred band ;
Or tracest chaste descriptions on thy page,
To please the females of our modest age ;
All hail, M.P. !‖ from whose infernal brain
Thin-sheeted phantoms glide, a grisly train ;
At whose command "grim women" throng in crowds,
And kings of fire, of water, and of clouds,
With "small grey men," "wild yagers," and what not,
To crown with honor thee and Walter Scott ;
Again, all hail ! if tales like thine may please,
St. Luke alone can vanquish the disease ;
Even Satan's self with thee might dread to dwell,
And in thy skull discern a deeper hell.

Who in soft guise, surrounded by a choir
Of virgins melting, not to Vesta's fire, [flush'd,
With sparkling eyes, and cheek by passion
Strikes his wild lyre, whilst listening dames are hush'd ?
'Tis Little ! young Catullus of his day,
As sweet, but as immoral, in his lay !
Grieved to condemn, the muse must still be just,
Nor spare melodious advocates of lust.
Pure is the flame which o'er her altar burns ;
From grosser incense with disgust she turns ;
Yet kind to youth, this expiation o'er,
She bids thee "mend thy line and sin no more."

For thee, translator of the tinsel song,
To whom such glittering ornaments belong,
Hibernian Strangford ! with thine eyes of blue,*
And boasted locks of red or auburn hue,
Whose plaintive strain each love-sick miss admires,
And o'er harmonious fustian half expires,
Learn, if thou canst, to yield thine author's sense,
Nor vend thy sonnets on a false pretence.
Think'st thou to gain thy verse a higher place,
By dressing Camoëns in a suit of lace ?†
Mend, Strangford ! mend thy morals and thy taste ;
Be warm, but pure ; be amorous, but be chaste ;
Cease to deceive ; thy pilfer'd harp restore,
Nor teach the Lusian bard to copy Moore.

Behold !—ye tarts ! one moment spare the text,
Hayley's last work, and worst—until his next ;
Whether he spin poor couplets into plays,
Or damn the dead with purgatorial praise,
His style in youth or age is still the same,
Forever feeble and forever tame. [shine !
Triumphant first see *Temper's Triumphs*
At least I'm sure they triumph'd over mine.
Of *Music's Triumphs*, all who read may swear
That luckless music never triumph'd there.‡

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* The last line, "God help thee," is an evident plagiarism from the "Anti-Jacobin" to Mr. Southey, on his Dactylics. "God help thee, silly one."—Poetry of the "Anti-Jacobin," page 23.

† "Lyrical Ballads," page 4.—"The Tables Turned," Stanza 1.

"Up, up, my friend, and clear your looks ;
Why all this toil and trouble ?
Up, up, my friend, and quit your books,
Or surely you'll grow double."

‡ Mr. W., in his preface, labors hard to prove that prose and verse are much the same ; and certainly his precepts and practice are strictly conformable :

"And thus to Betty's question he
Made answer, like a traveller bold,
The cock did crow to-whoo, to-whoo,
And the sun did shine so cold," etc., etc.—
"Lyrical Ballads," page 129.

§ Coleridge's Poems, page 11, "Songs of the Pixies," i.e., Devonshire fairies ; p. 42, we have "Lines to a Young Lady" ; and p. 52, "Lines to a Young Ass."

‖ "For every one knows little Matt's an M.P."—See a Poem to Mr. Lewis, in the "Statesman," supposed to be written by Mr. Jekyll.

* The reader who may wish for an explanation of this, may refer to Strangford's "Camoens," p. 127, note to page 56, or to the last page of the "Edinburgh Review," of Strangford's "Camoens."

† It is also to be remarked, that the things given to the public as Poems of Camoens, are no more to be found in the original Portuguese than in the Song of Solomon.

‡ Hayley's two most notorious verse productions are "Triumphs of Temper" and "Triumphs of Music." He has also written much comedy in rhyme, epistles, etc.,

Moravians, rise! bestow some meet reward
On dull devotion—Lo! the Sabbath bard,
Sepulchral Grahame, pours his notes sublime
In mangled prose, nor e'en aspires to rhyme;
Breaks into blank the Gospel of St. Luke,
And boldly pilfers from the Pentateuch;
And, undisturbed by conscientious qualms,
Perverts the Prophets, and purloins the Psalms.*

Hail, Sympathy! thy soft idea brings
A thousand visions of a thousand things,
And shows, still whimpering through three-score of years,
The maudlin prince of mournful sonneteers.
And art thou not their prince, harmonious Bowles!
Thou first, great oracle of tender souls?
Whether thou sing'st with equal ease and grief
The fall of empires or a yellow leaf;
Whether thy muse most lamentably tells
What merry sounds proceed from Oxford bells;†
Or, still in bells delighting, finds a friend
In every chime that jingled from Ostend;
Ah! how much juster were thy muse's hap,
If to thy bells thou wouldst but add a cap;
Delightful Bowles! still blessing and still blest,
All love thy strain, but children like it best.
'Tis thine, with gentle Little's moral song,
To soothe the mania of the amorous throng;
With thee our nursery damsels shed their tears,
Ere miss as yet completes her infant years;
But in her teens thy winning powers are vain,
She quits poor Bowles for Little's purer strain.
Now to soft themes thou scornest to confine
The lofty numbers of a harp like thine;
"Awake a louder and a loftier strain,"‡
Such as none heard before, or will again;
Where all Discoveries jumbled from the flood,
Since first the leaky ark reposed in mud,
By more or less, are sung in every book,
From Captain Noah down to Captain Cook.
Nor this alone, but, pausing on the road,
The bard sighs forth a gentle episode;§
And gravely tells—attend, each beauteous miss!—
When first Madeira trembled to a kiss.
Bowles! in thy memory let this precept dwell,
Stick to thy sonnets, man!—at least they sell.
But if some new-born whim, or larger bribe,
Prompt thy crude brain, and claim thee for a scribe; [fear'd,
If chance some bard, though once by dunces
Now, prone in dust, can only be revered;
If Pope, whose fame and genius from the first
Have foiled the best of critics, needs the worst,
Do thou essay; each fault, each failing scan;
The first of poets was, alas! but man.
Rake from each ancient dunghill ev'ry pearl,
Consult Lord Fanny, and confide in Curll;*
Let all the scandals of a former age
Perch on thy pen and flutter o'er thy page;
Affect a candor which thou canst not feel,
Clothe envy in the garb of honest zeal;
Write, as if St. John's soul could still inspire,
And do from hate what Mallet did for hire.†
Oh! hadst thou lived in that congenial time,
To rave with Dennis, and with Ralph to rhyme;‡
Throng'd with the rest around his living head,
Not raised thy hoof against the lion dead;
A meet reward had crown'd thy glorious gains,
And link'd thee to the Dunciad for thy pains.§

Another epic! Who inflicts again
More books of blank upon the sons of men?
Bœotian Cottle, rich Bristowa's boast,
Imports old stories from the Cambrian coast,
And sends his goods to market—all alive!
Lines forty thousand, cantos twenty-five?
Fresh fish from Helicon! who'll buy, who'll buy?
The precious bargain's cheap—in faith, not I.
Your turtle-feeder's verse must needs be flat,
Though Bristol bloat him with the verdant fat; [brain,
If Commerce fills the purse, she clogs the
And Amos Cottle strikes the lyre in vain.
In him an author's luckless lot behold, [sold.
Condemn'd to make the books which once he
Oh, Amos Cottle!—Phœbus! what a name
To fill the speaking trump of future fame!—
Oh, Amos Cottle! for a moment think
What meagre profits spring from pen and ink!
When thus devoted to poetic dreams,
Who will peruse thy prostituted reams?
Oh! pen perverted! paper misapplied!

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etc. As he is rather an elegant writer of notes and biography, let us recommend Pope's advice to Wycherley to Mr. H.'s consideration, viz. "to convert his poetry into prose," which may easily be done by taking away the final syllable of each couplet.

* Mr. Grahame has poured forth two volumes of cant, under the name of "Sabbath Walks" and "Biblical Pictures."

† See Bowles's Sonnets, etc.—"Sonnet to Oxford" and "Stanzas on hearing the Bells of Ostend."

‡ "Awake a louder," etc., etc., is the first line in Bowles's "Spirit of Discovery," a very spirited and pretty dwarf epic. Among other exquisite lines we have the following:

"A kiss
Stole on the list'ning silence, never yet
Here heard; they trembled even as if the power," etc.

That is, the woods of Madeira trembled to a kiss, very much astonished, as well they might be, at such a phenomenon.

§ The episode here alluded to is the story of "Robert a Machin" and "Anna d'Arfet," a pair of constant lovers, who performed the kiss above mentioned, that startled the woods of Madeira.

* Curll is one of the heroes of the "Dunciad," and was a bookseller. Lord Fanny is the poetical name of Lord Hervey, author of "Lines to the Imitator of Horace."

† Lord Bolingbroke hired Mallet to traduce Pope after his decease, because the poet had retained some copies of a work by Lord Bolingbroke (the Patriot King), which that splendid but malignant genius had ordered to be destroyed.

‡ "Dennis the critic, and Ralph the rhymster:
Silence, ye wolves! while Ralph to Cynthia howls,
Making night hideous: answer him, ye owls—"
—Dunciad.

§ See Bowles's late edition of Pope's Works, for which he received £300; thus Mr. B. has experienced how much easier it is to profit by the reputation of another than to elevate his own.

Had Cottle still adorned the counter's side,*
Bent o'er the desk, or, born to useful toils,
Been taught to make the paper which he soils,
Plow'd, delved, or plied the oar with lusty limb,
He had not sung of Wales, nor I of him.

As Sisyphus against the infernal steep
Rolls the huge rock, whose motions ne'er may sleep,
So up thy hill, ambrosial Richmond, heaves
Dull Maurice all his granite weight of leaves:†
Smooth, solid monuments of mental pain!
The petrifactions of a plodding brain,
That, ere they reach the top, fall lumbering back again.

With broken lyre, and cheek serenely pale,
Lo! sad Alcæus wanders down the vale;
Though fair they rose, and might have bloom'd at last,
His hopes have perish'd by the northern blast:
Nipp'd in the bud by Caledonian gales,
His blossoms wither as the blast prevails!
O'er his lost works let *classic* Sheffield weep;
May no rude hand disturb their early sleep!‡

Yet, say! why should the bard at once resign
His claim to favor from the sacred Nine?
Forever startled by the mingled howl
Of northern wolves, that still in darkness prowl;
A coward brood, which mangle as they prey,
By hellish instinct all that cross their way;
Aged or young, the living or the dead,
No mercy find—these harpies must be fed.
Why do the injured unresisting yield
The calm possession of their native field?
Why tamely thus before their fangs retreat,
Nor hunt the bloodhounds back to Arthur's Seat?§

Health to immortal Jeffrey! once, in name,
England could boast a judge almost the same;
In soul so like, so merciful, yet just,
Some think that Satan has resign'd his trust,
And given the spirit to the world again,
To sentence letters as he sentenced men.
With hand less mighty, but with heart as black,
With voice as willing to decree the rack;
Bred in the courts betimes, though all that law
As yet hath taught him is to find a flaw;
Since well instructed in the patriot school
To rail at party, though a party tool,
Who knows, if chance his patrons should restore
Back to the sway they forfeited before,
His scribbling toils some recompense may meet,
And raise this Daniel to the judgment-seat?
Let Jeffry's shade indulge the pious hope,
And greeting thus, present him with a rope:
"Heir to my virtues! man of equal mind!
Skill'd to condemn as to induce mankind,
This cord receive, for thee reserved with care,
To wield in judgment, and at length to wear."

Health to great Jeffrey! Heaven preserve his life
To flourish on the fertile shores of Fife,
And guard it sacred in its future wars,
Since authors sometimes seek the field of Mars!
Can none remember that eventful day,
That ever-glorious, almost fatal fray,
When Little's leadless pistol met his eye,
And Bow-Street myrmidons stood laughing by?*
Oh! day disastrous! on her firm-set rock,
Dunedin's castle felt a secret shock;
Dark roll'd the sympathetic waves of Forth,
Low groan'd the startled whirlwinds of the north;
Tweed ruffled half his waves to form a tear,
The other half pursued its calm career;†
Arthur's steep summit nodded to its base,
The surly Tolbooth scarcely kept her place.
The Tolbooth felt—for marble sometimes can,
On such occasions, feel as much as man—
The Tolbooth felt defrauded of his charms,
If Jeffrey died, except within her arms:‡
Nay, last, not least, on that portentous morn,
The sixteenth storey, where himself was born,
His patrimonial garret, fell to ground,
And pale Edina shudder'd at the sound:
Strew'd were the streets around with milk-white reams,
Flow'd all the Canongate with inky streams;
This of his candor seem'd the sable dew,
That of his valor show'd the bloodless hue;
And all with justice deem'd the two combined
The mingled emblems of his mighty mind.
But Caledonia's goddess hover'd o'er [Moore;
The field, and saved him from the wrath of

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* Mr. Cottle, Amos, Joseph, I don't know which, but one or both, once sellers of books they did not write, and now writers of books that do not sell, have published a pair of epics: "Alfred"—(poor Alfred! Pye has been at him too!)—"Alfred" and the "Fall of Cambria."

† Mr. Maurice hath manufactured the component parts of a ponderous quarto, upon the "Beauties of Richmond Hill," and the like: it also takes in a charming view of Turnham Green, Hammersmith, Brentford, Old and New, and the parts adjacent.

‡ Poor Montgomery, though praised by every English Review, has been bitterly reviled by the Edinburgh. After all, the bard of Sheffield is a man of considerable genius; his "Wanderer of Switzerland" is worth a thousand "Lyrical Ballads," and at least fifty "degraded epics."

§ Arthur's Seat, the hill which overhangs Edinburgh.

* In 1806, Messrs. Jeffrey and Moore met at Chalk Farm. The duel was prevented by the interference of the magistracy; and, on examination, the balls of the pistols, like the courage of the combatants, were found to have evaporated. This incident gave occasion to much waggery in the daily prints.

† The Tweed here behaved with proper decorum; it would have been highly reprehensible in the English half of the river to have shown the smallest symptom of apprehension.

‡ This display of sympathy on the part of the Tolbooth (the principal prison in Edinburgh), which truly seems to have been most affected on this occasion, is much to be commended. It was to be apprehended that the many unhappy criminals executed in the front might have rendered the edifice more callous. She is said to be of the softer sex, because her delicacy of feeling on this day was truly feminine, though, like most feminine impulses, perhaps a little selfish.

From either pistol snatch'd the vengeful lead,
And straight restor'd it to her favorite's head;
That head, with greater than magnetic power,
Caught it, as Danaë caught the golden shower,
And, though the thickening dross will scarce refine,
Augments its ore, and is itself a mine.
"My son," she cried, "ne'er thirst for göre again,
Resign the pistol and resume the pen;
O'er politics and poesy preside,
Boast of thy country, and Britannia's guide!
For long as Albion's heedless sons submit,
Or Scottish taste decides on English wit,
So long shall last thine unmolested reign,
Nor any dare to take thy name in vain.
Behold, a chosen band shall aid thy plan,
And own thee chieftain of the critic clan.
First in the oat-fed phalanx shall be seen
The travell'd thane, Athenian Aberdeen.*
Herbert shall wield Thor's hammer,† and sometimes,
In gratitude, thou'lt praise his rugged rhymes.
Smug Sydney,‡ too, thy bitter page shall seek,
And classic Hallam,§ much renown'd for Greek;
Scott may perchance his name and influence lend,
And paltry Pillans‖ shall traduce his friend;
While gay Thalia's luckless votary, Lambe,¶
Damn'd like the devil, devil-like will damn.
Known be thy name, unbounded be thy sway!
Thy Holland's banquets shall each toil repay;
While grateful Britain yields the praise she owes
To Holland's hirelings and to learning's foes.
Yet mark one caution, ere thy next Review
Spread its light wings of saffron and of blue,
Beware lest blundering Brougham* destroy the sale,
Turn beef to bannocks, cauliflowers to kail."
Thus having said, the kilted goddess kiss'd
Her son, and vanish'd in a Scottish mist.†

Then prosper, Jeffrey! pertest of the train
Whom Scotland pampers with her fiery grain!
Whatever blessing waits a genuine Scot,
In double portion swell thy glorious lot;
For thee Edina culls her evening sweets,
And showers their odors on thy candid sheets,
Whose hue and fragrance to thy work adhere—
This scents its pages, and that gilds its rear.‡
Lo! blushing Itch, coy nymph, enamor'd grown,
Forsakes the rest, and cleaves to thee alone;
And, too unjust to other Pictish men,
Enjoys thy person, and inspires thy pen!

Illustrious Holland! hard would be his lot,
His hirelings mentioned, and himself forgot!
Holland, with Henry Petty§ at his back,
The whipper-in and huntsman of the pack.
Blest be the banquets spread at Holland House,
Where Scotchmen feed, and critics may carouse!
Long, long beneath that hospitable roof,
Shall Grub Street dine, while duns are kept aloof.
See honest Hallam lay aside his fork,
Resume his pen, review his Lordship's work,
And, grateful for the dainties on his plate,
Declare his landlord can at least translate!‖
Dunedin! view thy children with delight,
They write for food—and feed because they write:
And lest, when heated with the unusual grape,
Some glowing thoughts should to the press escape,
And tinge with red the female reader's cheek,
My lady skims the cream of each critique;
Breathes o'er the page her purity of soul,
Reforms each error, and refines the whole.¶

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* His Lordship has been much abroad, is a member of the Athenian Society, and Reviewer of Gell's "Topography of Troy."

† Mr. Herbert is a translator of Icelandic and other poetry. One of the principal pieces is a "Song on the Recovery of Thor's Hammer"; the translation is a pleasant chant in the vulgar tongue, and endeth thus:

"Instead of money and rings, I wot,
The hammer's bruises were her lot:
Thus Odin's son his hammer got."

‡ The Reverend Sydney Smith, the reputed author of "Peter Plymley's Letters," and sundry criticisms.

§ Mr. Hallam reviewed Payne Knight's "Taste," and was exceedingly severe on some Greek verses therein; it was not discovered that the lines were Pindar's till the press rendered it impossible to cancel the critique, which still stands an everlasting monument of Hallam's ingenuity.

The said Hallam is incensed, because he is falsely accused, seeing that he never dineth at Holland House. If this be true, I am sorry—not for having said so, but on his account, as I understand his Lordship's feasts are preferable to his compositions. If he did not review Lord Holland's performance, I am glad, because it must have been painful to read, and irksome to praise it. If Mr. Hallam will tell me who did review it, the real name shall find a place in the text; provided, nevertheless, the said name be of two orthodox musical syllables, and will come into the verse; till then, Hallam must stand for want of a better.

‖ Pillans was a tutor at Eton.

¶ The Honorable G. Lambe reviewed Beresford's "Miseries," and is, moreover, author of a farce enacted with much applause at the Priory, Stanmore; and damned with great expedition at Covent Garden. It was entitled "Whistle for it."

* Mr. Brougham, in No. xxv. of the "Edinburgh Review," throughout the article concerning Don Pedro de Cevallos, has displayed more politics than policy; many of the worthy burgesses of Edinburgh being so incensed at the infamous principles it evinces, as to have withdrawn their subscriptions.

† I ought to apologize to the worthy deities for introducing a new goddess with short petticoats to their notice; but, alas, what was to be done? I could not say Caledonia's genius, it being well known there is no genius to be found from Clackmannan to Caithness; yet without supernatural agency, how was Jeffrey to be saved? The national "kelpies," etc., are too unpoetical, and the "brownies" and "gude neighbors" (spirits of a good disposition) refused to extricate him. A goddess therefore has been called for the purpose; and great ought to be the gratitude of Jeffrey, seeing it is the only communication he ever held, or is likely to hold, with anything heavenly.

‡ See the color of the back binding of the "Edinburgh Review."

§ Marquis of Lansdowne.

‖ Lord H. has translated some specimens of Lope de Vega, inserted in his life of the author; both are bepraised by his disinterested guests.

¶ Certain it is, her Ladyship is suspected of having displayed her matchless wit in the "Edinburgh Review." However that may be, we know from good authority that the manuscripts are submitted to her perusal—no doubt for correction.

Now to the Drama turn—Oh! motley sight!
What precious scenes the wondering eyes invite!
Puns, and a prince within a barrel pent,*
And Dibdin's nonsense, yield complete content. †
[mania's o'er, ‡
Though now, thank Heaven! the Roscio-
And full-grown actors are endured once more;
Yet what avail their vain attempts to please,
While British critics suffer scenes like these;
While Reynolds vents his "Dammes!"
"Poohs!" and "Zounds!" § [founds?
And common-place and common-sense con-
While Kenny's ‖ *World*,—ah! where is Kenny's wit?
Fires the sad gallery, lulls the listless pit;
And Beaumont's pilfer'd Caratach affords
A tragedy complete in all but words? ¶
[rage,
Who but must mourn, while these are all the
The degradation of our vaunted stage!
Heavens! is all sense of shame and talent gone?
Have we no living bard of merit?—none!
Awake, George Colman! Cumberland, awake!
Ring the alarum-bell! let folly quake!
Oh, Sheridan! if aught can move thy pen,
Let Comedy assume her throne again;
Abjure the mummery of the German schools;
Leave new Pizarros to translating fools;
Give, as thy last memorial to the age,
One classic drama, and reform the stage.
Gods! o'er those boards shall Folly rear her
head,
[tread?
Where Garrick trod, and Siddons lives to
On those shall Farce display Buffoon'ry's
mask,
And Hook conceal his heroes in a cask?
Shall sapient managers new scenes produce
From Cherry, Skeffington, and Mother Goose?
While Shakespeare, Otway, Massinger, forgot,
On stalls must moulder, or in closets rot?
Lo! with what pomp the daily prints proclaim
The rival candidates for Attic fame!
In grim array though Lewis' spectres rise,
Still Skeffington and Goose divide the prize.
And sure *great* Skeffington must claim our
praise,
For skirtless coats and skeletons of plays
Renown'd alike: whose genius ne'er confines
Her flight to garnish Greenwood's gay designs: **
Nor sleeps with "Sleeping Beauties," but anon
In five facetious acts comes thundering on,*
While poor John Bull, bewilder'd with the
scene,
Stares, wondering what the devil it can mean;
But as some hands applaud, a venal few!
Rather than sleep, why, John applauds it too.

Sure are we now. Ah! wherefore should
we turn
To what our fathers were, unless to mourn?
Degenerate Britons! are ye dead to shame,
Or, kind to dulness, do you fear to blame?
Well may the nobles of our present race
Watch each distortion of a Naldi's face;
Well may they smile on Italy's buffoons,
And worship Catalani's pantaloons,†
Since their own drama yields no fairer trace
Of wit than puns, of humor than grimace.

Then let Ausonia, skill'd in every art
To soften manners, but corrupt the heart,
Pour her exotic follies o'er the town,
To sanction Vice, and hunt Decorum down:
Let wedded strumpets languish o'er Deshayes,
And bless the promise which his form displays;
While Gayton bounds before th' enraptured
looks
Of hoary marquises and stripling dukes:
Let high-born lechers eye the lively Prêsle
Twirl her light limbs, that spurn the needless
veil;
Let Angiolini bare her breast of snow,
Wave the white arm, and point the pliant toe;
Collini trill her love-inspiring song,
[throng!
Strain her fair neck, and charm the listening
Raise not your scythe, suppressors of our vice!
Reforming saints! too delicately nice!
By whose decrees, our sinful souls to save,
No Sunday tankards foam, no barbers shave;
And beer undrawn, and beards unmown, display
Your holy reverence for the Sabbath-day.

Or, hail at once the patron and the pile
Of vice and folly, Greville and Argyle! ‡
Where yon proud palace, Fashion's hallow'd
fane,
Spreads wide her portals for the motley train,

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* In the melodrama of Tekeli, that heroic prince is rapt into a barrel on the stage—a new asylum for distressed heroes.

† Thomas Dibdin, author of "The Cabinet," "English Fleet," "Mother Goose," etc., and son of the great English lyrist.

‡ The performance of a child called the young Roscius; his name was Betty. [EDIT.]

§ All these are favorite expressions of Mr. Reynolds, and prominent in his comedies, living and defunct.

‖ Author of the farce of "Raising the Wind," and other pieces.

¶ Mr. T. Sheridan, the new manager of Drury Lane theatre, stripped the tragedy of "Bonduca" of the dialogue, and exhibited the scenes as the spectacle of Caractacus. Was this worthy of his sire? or of himself?

** Mr. Greenwood, scene-painter to Drury Lane Theatre.

* Mr. Skeffington is the illustrious author of the "Sleeping Beauty," and some comedies, particularly "Maids and Bachelors": Baccalaurii baculo magis quam lauro digni.

† Naldi and Catalani require little notice; for the visage of the one and the salary of the other will enable us long to recollect these amusing vagabonds. Besides, we are still black and blue from the squeeze on the first night of the lady's appearance in trousers.

‡ To prevent any blunder, such as mistaking a street for a man, I beg leave to state that it is the institution, and not the Duke of that name, which is here alluded to. A gentleman, with whom I am slightly acquainted, lost in the Argyle Rooms several thousand pounds at backgammon. It is but justice to the manager in this instance to say, that some degree of misapprobation was manifested: but why are the implements of gaming allowed in a place devoted to the society of both sexes? A pleasant thing for the wives and daughters of those who are blest or cursed with such connections, to hear the billiard tables rattling in one room and the dice in another! That this is the case I myself can testify, as a late unworthy member of an institution which materially affects the morals of the higher orders, while the lower may not even move to the sound of a tabor and fiddle without a chance of indictment for riotous behavior.

Behold the new Petronius of the day,*
Our arbiter of pleasure and of play!
There the hired eunuch, the Hesperian choir,
The melting lute, the soft lascivious lyre,
The song from Italy, the step from France,
The midnight orgie, and the mazy dance,
The smile of beauty, and the flush of wine,
For fops, fools, gamesters, knaves, and lords combine:
Each to his humor—Comus all allows:
Champagne, dice, music, of your neighbor's spouse.
Talk not to us, ye starving sons of trade!
Of piteous ruin, which ourselves have made:
In Plenty's sunshine Fortune's minions bask,
Nor think of poverty, except *en masque*,
When for the night some lately titled ass
Appears the beggar which his grandsire was.
The curtain dropp'd, the gay burletta o'er,
The audience take their turn upon the floor;
Now round the room the circling dow'gers sweep, [leap;
Now in loose waltz the thin-clad daughters
The first in lengthen'd line majestic swim,
The last display the free unfetter'd limb!
Those for Hibernia's lusty sons repair
With art the charms which nature could not spare;
These after husbands wing their eager flight,
Nor leave much mystery for the nuptial night.

Oh! blest retreats of infamy and case,
Where, all forgotten but the power to please,
Each maid may give a loose to genial thought,
Each swain may teach new systems, or be taught; [Spain,
There the blithe youngster, just return'd from
Cuts the light pack, or calls the rattling main;
The jovial caster's set, and seven's the nick,
Or—done!—a thousand on the coming trick!
If, mad with loss, existence 'gins to tire,
And all your hope or wish is to expire,
Here's Powell's pistol ready for your life,
And, kinder still, two Pagets for your wife;
Fit consummation of an earthly race
Begun in folly, ended in disgrace,
While none but menials o'er the bed of death
Wash thy red wounds, or watch thy wavering breath;
Traduced by liars, and forgot by all,
The mingled victim of a drunken brawl,
To live like Clodius, and like Falkland fall.†

Truth! rouse some genuine bard, and guide his hand
To drive this pestilence from out the land.

E'en I—least thinking of a thoughtless throng, [wrong,
Just skill'd to know the right and choose the
Freed at that age when reason's shield is lost,
To fight my course through passion's countless host,
Whom every path of pleasure's flowery way
Has lured in turn, and all have led astray—
E'en I must raise my voice, e'en I must feel
Such scenes, such men, destroy the public weal: [say,
Although some kind, censorious friend will
"What art thou better, meddling fool, than they?"
And every brother rake will smile to see
That miracle, a moralist in me.
No matter—when some bard in virtue strong,
Gifford perchance, shall raise the chastening song,
Then sleep my pen forever! and my voice
Be only heard to hail him, and rejoice;
Rejoice, and yield my feeble praise, though I
May feel the lash that Virtue must apply.

As for the smaller fry, who swarm in shoals
From silly Hafiz up to simple Bowles,*
Why should we call them from their dark abode,
In broad St. Giles's or in Tottenham-road?
Or (since some men of fashion nobly dare
To scrawl in verse) from Bond-street or the Square?
If things of ton their harmless lays indite,
Most wisely doom'd to shun the public sight,
What harm? In spite of every critic elf,
Sir T. may read his stanzas to himself; [try
Miles Andrews still his strength in couplets
And live in prologues, though his dramas die.
Lords too are bards, such things at times befall,
And 'tis some praise in peers to write at all.
Yet, did or taste or reason sway the times,
Ah! who would take their titles with their rhymes?
Roscommon! Sheffield! with your spirits fled,
No future laurels deck a noble head;
No muse will cheer with renovating smile
The paralytic puling of Carlisle.
The puny schoolboy and his early lay
Men pardon, if his follies pass away;
But who forgives the senior's ceaseless verse,
Whose hairs grow hoary as his rhymes grow worse?
What heterogeneous honors deck the peer!
Lord, rhymester, *petit-maître*, and pamphleteer!†
So dull in youth, so drivelling in his age,

* Petronius, "Arbiter elegantiarum" to Nero, "and a very pretty fellow in his day," as Mr. Congreve's "Old Bachelor" saith of Hannibal.

† I knew the late Lord Falkland well. On Sunday night I beheld him presiding at his own table, in all the honest pride of hospitality; on Wednesday morning, at three o'clock, I saw stretched before me all that remained of courage, feeling, and a host of passions. He was a gallant and successful officer: his faults were the faults of a sailor; as such, Britons will forgive them. He died like a brave man in a better cause [he was killed in a duel]; for had he fallen in like manner on the deck of the frigate to which he was just appointed, his last moments would have been held up by his countrymen as an example to succeeding heroes.

* What would be the sentiments of the Persian Anacreon, Hafiz, could he rise from his splendid sepulchre at Sheeraz, where he reposes with Ferdousi and Sadi, the oriental Homer and Catullus, and behold his name assumed by one Stott of Dromore, the most impudent and execrable of literary poachers for the daily prints!

† The Earl of Carlisle has lately published an eighteen penny pamphlet on the state of the stage, and offers his plan for building a new theatre; it is to be hoped his Lordship will be permitted to bring forward anything for the stage—except his own tragedies.

is scenes alone had damn'd our sinking
stage ; [enough !"
ut managers for once cried, "Hold,
or drugg'd their audience with the tragic
stuff.
et at their judgment let his Lordship laugh,
nd case his volumes in congenial calf :
es, doff that covering, where morocco shines,
nd hang a calf-skin on those recreant lines.*

With you, ye Druids ! rich in native lead,
Who daily scribble for your daily bread ;
With you I war not : Gifford's heavy hand
as crush'd, without remorse, your numerous
band.
n "all the talents" vent your venal spleen ;
Vant is your plea, let pity be your screen.
et monodies on Fox regale your crew,
nd Melville's Mantle prove a blanket too ; †
ne common Lethe waits each hapless bard,
nd peace be with you ! 'tis your best reward.
uch damning fame as Dunciads only give
ould bid your lines beyond a morning live ;
ut now at once your fleeting labors close,
ith names of greater note in blest repose.
ar be 't from me unkindly to upbraid
he lovely Rosa's prose in masquerade,
hose strains, the faithful echoes of her
mind,
eave wondering comprehension far behind.‡
hough Crusca's bards no more our journals
fill, [still ;
ome stragglers skirmish round the columns
ast of the howling host which once was
Bell's,
Matilda snivels yet, and Hafiz yells ;
nd Merry's metaphors appear anew,
hain'd to the signature of O. P. Q. §

When some brisk youth, the tenant of a
stall, ‖
mploys a pen less pointed than his awl,
eaves his snug shop, forsakes his store of
shoes,
t. Crispin quits, and cobblers for the muse;
eavens ! how the vulgar stare ! how crowds
low ladies read, and *literati* laud ! [applaud !
f chance some wicked wag should pass his
jest, [best ?
'is sheer ill-nature—don't the world know
enius must guide when wits admire the
rhyme,

And Capel Lofft declares 'tis quite sublime.*
Hear, then, ye happy sons of needless trade !
Swains, quit the plough, resign the useless
spade !
Lo, Burns and Bloomfield, nay, a greater far,
Gifford was born beneath an adverse star,
Forsook the labors of a servile state,
Stemm'd the rude storm, and triumph'd over
fate :
Then why no more ? If Phœbus smiled on you,
Bloomfield, why not on brother Nathan too ?
Him too the mania, not the muse, has seized;
Not inspiration, but a mind diseased :
And now no boor can seek his last abode,
No common be enclosed, without an ode.†
Oh ! since increased refinement deigns to smile
On Briton's sons, and bless our genial isle,
Let Poesy go forth, pervade the whole,
Alike the rustic and mechanic soul.
Ye tuneful cobblers ! still your notes prolong,
Compose at once a slipper and a song ;
So shall the fair your handiwork peruse,
Your sonnets sure shall please—perhaps your
shoes.
May moorland weavers boast Pindaric skill,‡
And tailors' lays be longer than their bill !
While punctual beaux reward the grateful
notes,
And pay for poems—when they pay for coats.

To the famed throng now paid the tribute
Neglected genius ! let me turn to you. [due,
Come forth, O Campbell ! give thy talents
scope ;
Who dares aspire if thou must cease to hope ?
And thou, melodious Rogers ! rise at last,§
Recall the pleasing memory of the past ;
Arise ! let blest remembrance still inspire,
And strike to wonted tones thy hallow'd lyre ;
Restore Apollo to his vacant throne,
Assert thy country's honor and thine own.
What ! must deserted Poesy still weep
Where her last hopes with pious Cowper
sleep ?
Unless, perchance, from his cold bier she
turns
To deck the turf that wraps her minstrel,
Burns ?
No ! though contempt hath mark'd the spurious brood,
The race who rhyme from folly, or for food,
Yet still some genuine sons 'tis hers to boast,
Who, least affecting, still affect the most ;

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* "Doff that lion's hide,
And hang a calf-skin on those recreant limbs."—
SHAKSPEARE, "King John."
ord C.'s works, most resplendently bound, form a con-
icuous ornament to his book-shelves :
"The rest is all but leather and prunella."

† "Melville's Mantle, a parody on Elijah's Mantle," a poem.

‡ This lively little Jessica, the daughter of the noted ew King, seems to be a follower of the Dello Crusca hool, and has published two volumes of very respect- ble absurdities in rhyme, as times go; besides sundry ovels in the style of the first edition of "The Monk."

§ These are the signatures of various worthies who gure in the poetical departments of the newspapers.

‖ Joseph Blackett, the shoemaker.

* Capel Lofft, Esq., the Mæcenas of shoemakers, and preface-writer-general to distressed versemen: a kind of gratis accoucher to those who wish to be delivered of rhyme, but do not know how to bring forth.

† See Nathaniel Bloomfield's ode, elegy, or whatever he or any one else chooses to call it, on the enclosure of Honington Green.

‡ Vide "Recollections of a Weaver in the Moorlands of Staffordshire."

§ It would be superfluous to recall to the mind of the reader the authors of "The Pleasures of Memory" and "The Pleasures of Hope," the most beautiful didactic poems in our language, if we except Pope's "Essay on Man"; but so many poetasters have started up, that even the names of Campbell and Rogers are become strange.

Feel as they write, and write but as they feel—
Bear witness Gifford, Sotheby, Macneil.*

"Why slumbers Gifford?" once was ask'd in vain![†]
Why slumbers Gifford? let us ask again.
Are there no follies for his pen to purge?
Are there no fools whose backs demand the scourge?
Are there no sins for satire's bard to greet?
Stalks not gigantic Vice in every street?
Shall peers or princes tread pollution's path,
And 'scape alike the law's and muse's wrath?
Nor blaze with guilty glare through future time,
Eternal beacons of consummate crime?
Arouse thee, Gifford! be thy promise claim'd,
Make bad men better, or at least ashamed.

Unhappy White! while life was in its spring,[‡]
And thy young muse just waved her joyous wing,
The spoiler swept the soaring lyre away
Which else had sounded an immortal lay.
Oh! what a noble heart was here undone,
When Science' self destroyed her favorite son!
Yes, she too much indulged thy fond pursuit;
She sow'd the seeds, but death has reap'd the fruit.
'Twas thine own genius gave the final blow,
And helped to plant the wound that laid thee low.
So the struck eagle, stretch'd upon the plain,
No more through rolling clouds to soar again,
View'd his own feather on the fatal dart,
And wing'd the shaft that quiver'd in his heart:
Keen were his pangs, but keener far to feel,
He nursed the pinion which impell'd the steel;
While the same plumage that had warm'd his nest,
Drank the last life-drop of his bleeding breast.

There be, who say, in these enlighten'd days,
That splendid lies are all the poet's praise;
That strain'd invention, ever on the wing,
Alone impels the modern bard to sing. [write—
'Tis true that all who rhyme—nay, all who
Shrink from that fatal word to genius—trite;
Yet Truth sometimes will lend her noblest fires,
And decorate the verse herself inspires:
This fact in Virtue's name let Crabbe attest,
Though nature's sternest painter, yet the best.

And here let Shee and genius find a place,*
Whose pen and pencil yield an equal grace:
To guide whose hand the sister arts combine,
And trace the poet's or the painter's line,
Whose magic touch can bid the canvas glow,
Or pour the easy rhyme's harmonious flow;
While honors, doubly merited, attend
The poet's rival, but the painter's friend.

Blest is the man who dares approach the bower
Where dwelt the muses at their natal hour:
Whose steps have press'd, whose eye has mark'd afar, [war,
The clime that nursed the sons of song and
The scenes which glory still must hover o'er,
Her place of birth, her own Achaian shore.
But doubly blest is he whose heart expands
With hallow'd feelings for those classic lands;
Who rends the veil of ages long gone by,
And views their remnants with a poet's eye.
Wright![†] 'twas thy happy lot at once to view
Those shores of glory, and to sing them too:
And sure no common muse inspired thy pen
To hail the land of gods and godlike men.

And you, associate bards! who snatch'd to light[‡] [sight;
Those gems too long withheld from modern
Whose mingling taste combined to cull the wreath
Where Attic flowers Aonian odors breathe,
And all their renovated fragrance flung
To grace the beauties of your native tongue;
Now let those minds, that nobly could transfuse
The glorious spirit of the Grecian muse,
Though soft the echo, scorn a borrow'd tone:
Resign Achaia's lyre, and strike your own.

Let these, or such as these, with just applause
Restore the muse's violated laws; [plause
But not in flimsy Darwin's pompous chime,
That mighty master of unmeaning rhyme;
Whose gilded cymbals, more adorn'd than clear,
The eye delighted, but fatigued the ear;
In show the simple lyre could once surpass,
But now, worn down, appear in native brass,
While all his train of hovering sylphs around
Evaporate in smiles and sound:
Him let them shun, with him let tinsel die:
False glare attracts, but more offends the eye.[§]

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* Gifford, author of the "Baviad" and "Mæviad," the first satires of the day, and translator of Juvenal.
Sotheby, translator of Wieland's "Oberon" and Virgil's "Georgics," and author of "Saul," an epic poem.
Macneil, whose poems are deservedly popular, particularly "Scotland's Scaith; or, the Waes of War," of which ten thousand copies were sold in one month.

† Mr. Gifford promised publicly that the "Baviad" and "Mæviad" should not be his last original works. Let him remember "Mox in reluctantes dracones."

‡ Henry Kirke White died at Cambridge in October, 1806, in consequence of too much exertion in the pursuit of studies that would have matured a mind which disease and poverty could not impair, and which death itself destroyed rather than subdued. His poems abound in such beauties as must impress the reader with the liveliest regret that so short a period was allotted to talents which would have dignified even the sacred functions he was destined to assume.

* Mr. Shee, author of "Rhymes on Art," and "Elements of Art."

† Mr. Wright, late Consul-General for the Seven Islands, author of a very beautiful poem, entitled "Horæ Ionicæ"; descriptive of the isles and adjacent coast of Greece.

‡ The translators of the "Anthology" have since published separate poems which evince genius that only requires opportunity to attain eminence.

§ The neglect of the Botanic Garden is some proof of returning taste. The scenery is its sole recommendation.

Yet let them not to vulgar Wordsworth stoop,
he meanest object of the lowly group,
hose verse, of all but childish prattle void,
iems blessed harmony to Lambe and Lloyd;*
t them—but hold, my muse, nor dare to teach
strain far, far beyond thy humble reach:
ne native genius with their being given
ill point the path, and peal their notes to heaven.

And thou, too, Scott,† resign to minstrels
ne wilder slogan of a border feud; [rude
t others spin their meagre lines for hire;
nough for genius, if itself inspire!
t Southey sing, although his teeming muse,
olific every spring, be too profuse; [verse,
et simple Wordsworth chime his childish
nd brother Coleridge lull the babe at nurse;
t spectre-mongering Lewis aim, at most,
o rouse the galleries or to raise a ghost;
et Moore still sigh; let Strangford steal from Moore, [yore;
nd swear that Camoëns sang such notes of
et Hayley hobble on, Montgomery rave,
nd godly Grahame chant a stupid stave;
et sonneteering Bowles his strains refine,
nd whine and whimper to the fourteenth line;
et Stott, Carlisle,‡ Matilda, and the rest
f Grub Street and of Grosvenor Place the best,
rawl on till death release us from the strain,
r Common Sense assert her rights again.
nt thou, with powers that mock the aid of praise,
Shouldst leave to humbler bards ignoble lays:
Thy country's voice, the voice of all the Nine,
Demand a hallow'd harp—that harp is thine.
Say! will not Caledonia's annals yield
The glorious record of some nobler field,
Than the wild foray of a plundering clan,
Whose proudest deeds disgrace the name of man?
Or Marmion's acts of darkness, fitter food
For Sherwood's outlaw'd tales of Robin Hood?
Scotland! still proudly claim thy native bard,
And be thy praise his first, his best reward!
Yet not with thee alone his name should live,
But own the vast renown a world can give;
Be known, perchance, when Albion is no more,
And tell the tale of what she was before;
To future times her faded fame recall,
And save her glory, though his country fall.

Yet what avails the sanguine poet's hope,
To conquer ages, and with time to cope?
New eras spread their wings, new nations rise,
And other victors fill the applauding skies;
A few brief generations fleet along,
Whose sons forget the poet and his song:
E'en now, what once-loved minstrels scarce may claim
The transient mention of a dubious name!
When fame's loud trump hath blown its noblest blast, [last;
Though long the sound, the echo sleeps at
And glory, like the phœnix 'midst her fires,
Exhales her odors, blazes, and expires.

Shall hoary Granta call her sable sons,
Expert in science, more expert at puns? [flies,
Shall these approach the muse? Ah, no, she
Even from the tempting ore of Seaton's prize;
Though printers condescend the press to soil
With rhyme by Hoare, and epic blank by Hoyle:
Not him whose page, if still upheld by whist,
Requires no sacred theme to bid us list.*
Ye! who in Granta's honors would surpass,
Must mount her Pegasus, a full-grown ass;
A foal well worthy of her ancient dam,
Whose Helicon is duller than her Cam.

There Clarke, still striving piteously "to please,"
Forgetting doggrel leads not to degrees,
A would-be satirist, a hired buffoon,
A monthly scribbler of some low lampoon,
Condemn'd to drudge, the meanest of the mean,
And furbish falsehoods for a magazine,
Devotes to scandal his congenial mind;
Himself a living libel on mankind.†

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* Messrs. Lambe and Lloyd, the most ignoble followers Southey and Co.

† By the by, I hope that in Mr. Scott's next poem his ero or heroine will be less addicted to Gramarye, nd more to grammar, than the Lady of the Lay, and r bravo, William of Deloraine.

‡ It may be asked why I have censured the Earl of arlisle, my guardian and relative, to whom I dedicated volume of puerile poems a few years ago. The guarianship was nominal, at least as far as I have been able discover; the relationship I cannot help, and am very rry for it; but as his Lordship seemed to forget it on very essential occasion to me, I shall not burden my emory with the recollection. I do not think that perinal differences sanction the unjust condemnation of a other scribbler; but I see no reason why they should t as a preventive, when the author, noble or ignoble, as for a series of years beguiled a "discerning public" s the advertisements have it) with divers reams of ost orthodox, imperial nonsense. Besides, I do not ep aside to vituperate the Earl; no—his works come airly in review with those of other patrician literati. , before I escaped from my teens, I said anything in vor of Lordship's paper books, it was in the way dutiful dedication, and more from the advice of hers than my own judgment, and I seize the first portunity of pronouncing my sincere recantation. have heard that some persons conceive me to be under bligations to Lord Carlisle; if so, I shall be most parcularly happy to learn what they are, and when conrred, that they may be duly appreciated and publicly knowledged. What I have humbly advanced as an inion on his printed things, I am prepared to support, if necessary, by quotations from elegies, eulogies, tles, episodes, and certain facetious and dainty tragies bearing his name and mark:

"What can ennoble knaves, or fools, or cowards?
Alas! not all the blood of all the Howards!"

o says Pope. Amen!

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* The "Games of Hoyle," well known to the votaries of whist, chess, etc., are not to be superseded by the vagaries of his poetical namesake, whose poem comprised, as expressly stated in the advertisement, all the "plagues of Egypt."

† This person was the writer of a poem denominated the "Art of Pleasing," as "lucus a non lucendo," containing little pleasantry and less poetry. He also acted as monthly stipendiary and collector of calumnies for the "Satirist."

Oh! dark asylum of a Vandal race! *
At once the boast of learning, and disgrace!
So lost to Phœbus that nor Hodgson's † verse
Can make thee better, nor poor Hewson's ‡ worse!
But where fair Isis rolls her purer wave,
The partial muse delighted loves to lave;
On her green banks a greener wreath she wove,
To crown the bards that haunt her classic grove;
Where Richards wakes a genuine poet's fires,
And modern Britons glory in their sires. §

For me, who, thus unask'd, have dared to tell
My country what her sons should know to well,
Zeal for her honor bade me here engage
The host of idiots that infest her age:
No just applause her honor'd name shall lose,
As first in freedom, dearest to the muse.
Oh! would thy bards but emulate thy fame,
And rise more worthy, Albion, of thy name!
What Athens was in science, Rome in power,
What Tyre appear'd in her meridian hour,
'Tis thine at once, fair Albion! to have been—
Earth's chief dictatress, ocean's lovely queen:
But Rome decay'd and Athens strew'd the plain, [main:
And Tyre's proud piers lie shatter'd in the
Like these, thy strength may sink, in ruin hurl'd,
And Britain fall, the bulwark of the world.
But let me cease, and dread Cassandra's fate,
With warning ever scoff'd at, till too late;
To themes less lofty still my lay confine,
And urge thy bards to gain a name like thine.

Then, hapless Britain! be thy rulers blest,
The senate's oracles, the people's jest!
Still hear thy motley orators dispense
The flowers of rhetoric, though not of sense,
While Canning's colleagues hate him for his wit,
And old dame Portland‖ fills the place of Pitt.

Yet once again, adieu! ere this the sail
That wafts me hence is shivering in the gale;
And Afric's coast, and Calpe's adverse height, ¶
And Stamboul's ** minarets, must greet my sight:

Thence shall I stray through beauty's native clime, *
Where Kaff † is clad in rocks, and crown'd with snows sublime.
But should I back return, no tempting press
Shall drag my journal from the desk's recess;
Let coxcombs, printing as they come from far,
Snatch his own wreath of ridicule from Carr:
Let Aberdeen and Elgin‡ still pursue
The shade of fame through regions of virtù;
Waste useless thousands on their Phidian freaks,
Misshapen monuments and maim'd antiques;
And make their grand saloons a general mart
For all the mutilated blocks of art.
Of Dardan tours let *dilettanti* tell,
I leave topography to rapid Gell; §
And, quite content, no more shall interpose
To stun mankind with poesy or prose.

Thus far I've held my undisturb'd career,
Prepared for rancor, steel'd 'gainst selfish fear:
This thing of rhyme, I ne'er disdain'd to own—
Though not obtrusive, yet not quite unknown:
My voice was heard again, though not so loud;
My page, though nameless, never disavow'd;
And now at once I tear the veil away:—
Cheer on the pack! the quarry stands at bay,
Unscared by all the din of Melbourne House,
By Lambe's resentment, or by Holland's spouse,
By Jeffrey's harmless pistol, Hallam's rage,
Edina's brawny sons and brimstone page.
Our men in buckram shall have blows enough,
And feel they too are "penetrable stuff":
And though I hope not hence unscathed to go,
Who conquers me shall find a stubborn foe.
The time hath been, when no harsh sound would fall [gall;
From lips that now may seem imbued with
Nor fools nor follies tempt me to despise [eyes;
The meanest thing that crawl'd beneath my
But now, so callous grown, so changed since youth, [truth;
I've learn'd to think, and sternly speak the
Learn'd to deride the critic's starch decree,
And break him on the wheel he meant for me;
To spurn the rod a scribbler bids me kiss,
Nor care if courts and crowds applaud or hiss:
Nay more, though all my rival rhymesters frown,
I too can hunt a poetaster down; [brand cast at once
And, arm'd in proof, the gauntlet
To Scotch marauder, and to southern dunce.
Thus much I've dared; if my incondite lay
Hath wrong'd these righteous times, let others say; [spare,
This, let the world, which knows not how to
Yet rarely blames unjustly, now declare.

* "Into Cambridgeshire the Emperor Probus transported a considerable body of Vandals."—"Gibbon's Decline and Fall," page 83, vol. ii. There is no reason to doubt the truth of this assertion: the breed is still in high perfection.

† This gentleman's name requires no praise: the man who in translation displays unquestionable genius may be well expected to excel in original composition, of which, it is to be hoped, we shall soon see a splendid specimen.

‡ Hewson Clarke, Esq., as it is written.

§ The "Aboriginal Britons," an excellent poem by Richards.

‖ A friend of mine being asked why his Grace of P. was likened to an old woman, replied, "he supposed it was because he was past bearing." His Grace is now gathered to his grandmothers, where he sleeps as sound as ever; but even his sleep was better than his colleagues' waking. 1811.

¶ Calpe is the ancient name of Gibraltar.

** Stamboul is the Turkish word for Constantinople.

* Georgia, remarkable for the beauty of its inhabitants.

† Mount Caucasus.

‡ Lord Elgin would fain persuade us that all the figures, with and without noses, in his stone-shop, are the work of Phidias! "Credat Judæus!"

§ Mr. Gell's "Topography 'of Troy 'and Ithaca" cannot fail to ensure the approbation of every man possessed of classical taste, as well for the information Mr. G. conveys to the mind of the reader, as for the ability and research the respective works display.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE SECOND EDITION.

AVE been informed, since the present edition went to the press, that my trusty and well beloved cousins, the nburgh Reviewers, are preparing a most vehement critique on my poor, gentle, unresisting Muse, whom they e already so bedeviled with their ungodly ribaldry :

"Tantæne animis cœlestibus iræ":

ppose I must say of Jeffrey as Sir Andrew Agucheek saith, "An' I had known he was so cunning of fence, I seen him d—d ere I had fought him." What a pity it is that I shall be beyond the Bosphorus before the t number has passed the Tweed! But I yet hope to light my pipe with it in Persia.

My Northern friends have accused me, with justice, of personality towards their great literary anthropopha- , Jeffrey; but what else was to be done with him and his dirty pack, who feed by "lying and slandering," and ike their thirst by "evil speaking!" I have adduced facts already well known, and of Jeffrey's mind I have ed my free opinion; nor has he hence sustained any injury: what scavenger was ever soiled by being pelted th mud! It may be said that I quit England because I have censured there "persons of honor and wit about n"; but I am coming back again, and their vengeance will keep hot till my return. Those who know me can ify that my motives for leaving England are very different from fears, literary or personal; those who do not, y one day be convinced. Since the publication of this thing, my name has not been concealed: I have been stly in London, ready to answer for my transgressions, and in daily expectation of sundry cartels; but, alas! e age of chivalry is over," or, in the vulgar tongue, there is no spirit now-a-days.

There is a youth yclept Hewson Clarke (subaudi Esquire), a sizer of Emanuel College, and I believe a denizen erwick upon Tweed, whom I have introduced in these pages to much better company than he has been ac- stomed to meet; he is, notwithstanding, a very sad dog, and for no reason that I can discover, except a per- nal quarrel with a bear, kept by me at Cambridge to sit for a fellowship, and whom the jealousy of his Trinity temporaries prevented from success, has been abusing me, and, what is worse, the defenceless innocent above tioned, in the "Satirist," for one year and some months. I am utterly unconscious of having given him any vocation; indeed, I am guiltless of having heard his name till coupled with the "Satirist." He has therefore reason to complain, and I dare say that, like Sir Fretful Plagiary, he is rather pleased than otherwise. I have y mentioned all who have done me the honor to notice me and mine, that is, my bear and my book, except Editor of the "Satirist," who, it seems, is a gentleman God wot! I wish he could impart a little of his itility to his subordinate scribblers. I hear that Mr. Jerningham is about to take up the cudgels for his scenas, Lord Carlisle. I hope not: he was one of the few who, in the very short intercourse I had with him, ated me with kindness when a boy; and whatever he may say or do, "pour on, I will endure." I have nothing ther to add, save a general note of thanksgiving to readers, purchasers, and publishers; and, in the words of ott, I wish

"To all and each a fair good night,
And rosy dreams and slumbers light."

HINTS FROM HORACE:

ING AN ALLUSION IN ENGLISH VERSE TO THE EPISTLE "AD PISONES, DE ARTE POETICA," AND INTENDED AS A SEQUEL TO "ENGLISH BARDS AND SCOTCH REVIEWERS."

—"Ergo fungar vice cotis, acutum
Reddere quæ ferrum valet, exsors ipsa secandi."
HOR. "De Arte Poet."

"Rhymes are difficult things—they are stubborn things, sir."
FIELDING'S "Amelia."

ATHENS: CAPUCHIN CONVENT, March 12, 1811.

Who would not laugh, if Lawrence, hired to grace
His costly canvas with each flatter'd face,
Caused his art, till Nature, with a blush,
Saw cits grow centaurs underneath his brush?
Or, should some limner join, for show or sale,
A maid of honor to a mermaid's tale?
Or low Dubost*—as once the world has seen— [spleen?
Degrade God's creatures in his graphic
Not all that forced politeness, which defends
Fools in their faults, could gag his grinning friends.
Believe me, Moschus, like that picture seems
The book which, sillier than a sick man's dreams,
Displays a crowd of figures incomplete,
Poetic nightmares, without head or feet.

Poets and painters, as all artists know,
May shoot a little with a lengthen'd bow;
We claim this mutual mercy for our task,
And grant in turn the pardon which we ask;

But make not monsters spring from gentle dams—
Birds breed not vipers, tigers nurse not lambs.

A labor'd, long exordium sometimes tends
(Like patriot speeches) but to paltry ends;
And nonsense in a lofty note goes down,
As pertness passes with a legal gown:
Thus many a bard describes in pompous strain
The clear brook babbling through the goodly plain:
The groves of Granta, and her Gothic halls,
King's Coll., Cam's stream, stain'd windows, and old walls:
Or, in advent'rous numbers, neatly aims
To paint a rainbow, or—the river Thames.*

You sketch a tree, and so perhaps may shine—
But daub a shipwreck like an alehouse sign;
You plan a *vase*—it dwindles to a *pot:* [got;
Then glide down Grub-street—fasting and for-
Laugh'd into Lethe by some quaint Review,
Whose wit is never troublesome till—true.

In fine, to whatsoever you aspire,
Let it at least be simple and entire.

* In an English newspaper, which finds its way abroad herever there are Englishmen, I read an account of is dirty dauber's caricature of Mr. H—— as a "beast," d the consequent action, etc. The circumstance is, robably, too well known to require further comment.

* "Where pure description held the place of sense."
—Pope.

The greater portion of the rhyming tribe
(Give ear, my friend, for thou hast been a scribe)
Are led astray by some peculiar lure.
I labor to be brief—become obscure;
One falls while following elegance too fast;
Another soars, inflated with bombast;
Too low a third crawls on, afraid to fly,
He spins his subject to satiety;
Absurdly varying, he at last engraves
Fish in the woods, and boars beneath the waves!

Unless your care's exact, your judgment nice,
The flight from folly leads but into vice;
None are complete, all wanting in some part,
Like certain tailors, limited in art.
For galligaskins Slowshears is your man;
But coats must claim another artisan.*
Now this to me, I own, seems much the same
As Vulcan's feet to bear Apollo's frame;
Or, with a fair complexion, to expose
Black eyes, black ringlets, but—a bottle nose!

Dear authors, suit your topics to your strength,
And ponder well your subject and its length;
Nor lift your load before you're quite aware
What weight your shoulders will, or will not, bear.
But lucid Order, and Wit's siren voice,
Await the poet, skilful in his choice;
With native eloquence he soars along,
Grace in his thoughts, and music in his song.

Let judgment teach them wisely to combine
With future parts the now omitted line:
This shall the author choose, or that reject,
Precise in style, and cautious to select;
Nor slight applause will candid pens afford
To him who furnishes a wanting word.
Then fear not, if 'tis needful, to produce
Some term unknown, or obsolete in use,
(As Pitt has furnish'd us a word or two,†
Which lexicographers declined to do;)
So you indeed, with care,—(but be content
To take this license rarely)—may invent.
New words find credit in these latter days,
If neatly grafted on a Gallic phrase.
What Chaucer, Spenser did, we scarce refuse
To Dryden's or to Pope's maturer muse.
If you can add a little, say why not,
As well as William Pitt, and Walter Scott?
Since they, by force of rhyme and force of lungs,
Enrich'd our island's ill-united tongues;
'Tis then—and shall be—lawful to present
Reform in writing, as in parliament.

As forests shed their foliage by degrees,
So fade expressions which in season please;
And we and ours, alas! are due to fate,
And works and words but dwindle to a date.
Though as a monarch nods, and commerce
Impetuous rivers stagnate in canals; [calls,
Though swamps subdued, and marshes drain'd, sustain
The heavy ploughshare and the yellow grain,
And rising ports along the busy shore
Protect the vessel from old Ocean's roar,
All, all, must perish; but, surviving last,
The love of letters half preserves the past.
True, some decay, yet not a few revive;*
Though those shall sink, which now appear to thrive,
As custom arbitrates, whose shifting sway
Our life and language must alike obey.

The immortal wars which gods and angels wage,
Are they not shown in Milton's sacred page?
His strain will teach what numbers best be-
To themes celestial told in epic song. [long

The slow, sad stanza will correctly paint
The lover's anguish or the friend's complaint.
But which deserves the laurel—rhyme or blank?
Which holds on Helicon the higher rank?
Let squabbling critics by themselves dispute
This point, as puzzling as a Chancery suit.

Satiric rhyme first sprang from selfish spleen. [dean.†
You doubt—see Dryden, Pope, St. Patrick's

Blank verse is now, with one consent, allied
To Tragedy, and rarely quits her side. [days,
Though mad Almanzor rhymed in Dryden's
No sing-song hero rants in modern plays;
While modest Comedy her verse foregoes
For jest and *pun* in very middling prose,‡
Not that our Bens or Beaumonts show the worse,
Or lose one point, because they wrote in verse.
But so Thalia pleases to appear, [year!
Poor virgin! damn'd some twenty times a

Whate'er the scene, let this advice have weight:—
Adapt your language to your hero's state.
At times Melpomene forgets to groan,
And brisk Thalia takes a serious tone;
Nor unregarded will the act pass by
Where angry Townly lifts his voice on high.
Again our Shakspeare limits verse to kings,

* Mere common mortals were commonly content with one tailor, and with one bill, but the more particular gentlemen found it impossible to confide their lower garments to the makers of their body clothes. I speak of the beginning of 1809: what reform may have since taken place I neither know nor desire to know.

† Mr. Pitt was liberal in his additions to our parliamentary tongue; as may be seen in many publications, particularly the "Edinburg Review."

* Old ballads, old plays, and old women's stories, are at present in as much request as old wine or new speeches. In fact, this is the millennium of black letter; thanks to our Hebers, Webers, and Scotts!

† "MacFlecknoe," the "Dunciad," and all Swift's lampooning ballads. Whatever their other works may be, these originated in personal feelings, and angry retort on unworthy rivals; and though the ability of these satires elevates the poetical, their poignancy detracts from the personal character of the writers.

‡ With all the vulgar applause and critical abhorrence of puns, they have Aristotle on their side; who permits them to orators, and gives them consequence by a grave disquisition.

hen common prose will serve for common
ld lively Hal resigns heroic ire, [things ;
"hollowing Hotspur" and the sceptred
sire.*

'Tis not enough, ye bards, with all your art,
polish poems ; they must touch the heart :
nere'er the scene be laid, whate'er the song,
ll let it bear the hearer's soul along ;
mmand your audience or to smile or weep,
hiche'er may please you—anything but
sleep.
e poet claims our tears ; but, by his leave,
fore I shed them, let me see him grieve.

f banish'd Romeo feign'd nor sigh nor tear,
ll'd by his languor, I should sleep or sneer.
l words, no doubt, become a serious face,
d men look angry in the proper place.
double meanings folks seem wondrous sly,
d sentiment prescribes a pensive eye :
r nature form'd at first the inward man,
d actors copy nature—when they can.
e bids the beating heart with rapture bound,
ised to the stars, or levell'd with the ground;
d for expression's aid, tis said, or sung,
e gave our mind's interpreter—the tongue,
o, worn with use, of late would fain dis-
pense
least in theatres) with common sense ;
rwhelm with sound the boxes, gallery, pit,
d raise a laugh with anything—but wit.

o skilful writers it will much import,
ience spring their scenes, from common
life or court ;
ether they seek applause by smile or tear,
draw a "Lying Valet," or a "Lear,"
age, or rakish youngster wild from school,
wandering "Peregrine," or plain "John
Bull" ; [vails,
persons please when nature's voice pre-
ttish or Irish, born in Wilts or Wales.

r follow common fame, or forge a plot ;
o cares if mimic heroes lived or not ?
precept serves to regulate the scene :—
ke it appear as if it *might* have *been*.

f some Drawcansir you aspire to draw,
sent him raving, and above all law :
emale furies in your scheme are plann'd,
ebeth's fierce dame is ready to your hand ;
tears and treachery, for good and evil,
stance, King Richard, Hamlet, and the
if a new design you dare essay, [Devil !
l freely wander from the beaten way,
e to your characters, till all be past,
serve consistency from first to last.

'Tis hard to venture where our betters fail,
lend fresh interest to a twice-told tale ;†

And yet, perchance, 'tis wiser to prefer
A hackney'd plot, than choose a new, and err;
Yet copy not too closely, but record, [word ;
More justly, thought for thought than word for
Nor trace your prototype through narrow
But only follow where he merits praise. [ways,

For you, young bard ! whom luckless fate
may lead
To tremble on the nod of all who read,
Ere your first score of cantos time unrolls,
Beware—for God's sake, don't begin like
Bowles !*

* And in his ear I'll hollow, Mortimer!"—1 Henry

† Difficile est proprie communia dicere : tuque." Dacier, Mde de Sevigne, Boileau, and others, have their dispute on the meaning of this passage in a t considerably longer than the poem of Horace. It is printed at the close of the eleventh volume of Madame de Sevigne's Letters edited by Grouvelle, Paris, 1806. Presuming that all who can construe may venture an opinion on such subjects, particularly as so many who can not have taken the same liberty, I should have held my "farthing candle" as awkwardly as another, had not my respect for the wits of Louis the Fourteenth's Augustan siecle induced me to subjoin these illustrious authorities. 1st, Boileau : "Il est difficile de traiter des sujets qui sont a la portee de tout le monde d'une maniere qui vous les rende propres, ce qui s'appelle s'approprier un sujet par le tour qu'on y donne." 2ndly, Batteux : "Mais il est bien difficile de donner des traits propres et individuels aux etres purement possibles." 3rdly, Dacier : "Il est difficile de traiter convenablement ces caracteres que tout le monde peut inventer." Mde de Sevigne's opinion and translation, consisting of some thirty pages, I omit, particularly as M. Grouvelle observes, "La chose est bien remarquable, aucune de ces diverses interpretations ne parait etre la veritable." But, by way of comfort, it seems, fifty years afterwards, "Le lumineux Dumarsais" made his appearanne, to set Horace on his legs again, "dissiper tous les nuages, et concilier tous les dissentimens" ; and some fifty years hence, somebody, still more luminous, will doubtless start up and demolish Dumarsais and his system on this weighty affair, as if he were no better than Ptolemy and Tycho, or his comments of no more consequence than astronomical calculations on the present comet. I am happy to say, "la longueur de la dissertation" of M.D. prevents M.G. from saying any more on the matter. A better poet than Boileau, and at least as good a scholar as Sevigne, has said,

"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

And by this comparison of comments, it may be perceived how a good deal may be rendered as perilous to the proprietors.

* About two years ago a young man named Townsend was announced by Mr. Cumberland, in a review (since deceased), as being engaged in an epic poem to be entitled "Armageddon." The plan and specimen promise much ; but I hope neither to offend Mr. Townsend, nor his friends, by recommending to his attention the lines of Horace to which these rhymes allude. If Mr. Townsend succeeds in his undertaking, as there is reason to hope, how much will the world be indebted to Mr. Cumberland for bringing him before the public. But, till that eventful day arrives, it may be doubted whether the premature display of this plan (sublime as the ideas confessedly are) has not—by raising expectations too high, or diminishing curiosity, by developing his argument,—rather incurred the hazard of injuring Mr. Townsend's future prospects. Mr. Cumberland (whose talents I shall not depreciate by the humble tribute of my praise) and Mr. Townsend must not suppose me actuated by unworthy motives in this suggestion. I wish the author all the success he can wish himself, and shall be truly happy to see epic poetry weighed up from the bathos where it lies sunken with Southey, Cottle, Cowley (Mrs. or Abraham), Ogilvy, Wilkie, Pye, and all the "dull of past and present days." Even if he is not a Milton, he may be better than Blackmore ; if not a Homer, an Antimachus. I should deem myself presumptuous, as a young man, in offering advice, were it not addressed to one still younger. Mr. Townsend has the greatest difficulties to encounter : but in conquering them he will find employment ; in having conquered them, his reward. I know too well "the scribbler's scoff, the critic's contumely" ; and I am afraid time will teach Mr. Townsend to know them better. Those who succeed, and those who do not, must bear this alike, and it is hard to say which have most of it. I

"Awake a louder and a loftier strain,"—
And pray, what follows from his boiling brain?—
He sinks to Southey's level in a trice,
Whose epic mountains never fail in mice!
Not so of yore awoke your mighty sire
The temper'd warblings of his master-lyre;
Soft as the gentler breathing of the lute,
"Of man's first disobedience and the fruit"
He speaks, but as his subject swells along,
Earth, Heaven, and Hades echo with the song.
Stil to the midst of things he hastens on,
As if we witness'd all already done;
Leaves on his path whatever seems too mean
To raise the subject, or adorn the scene;
Gives, as each page improves upon the sight,
Not smoke from brightness, but from darkness—light;
And truth and fiction with such art compounds, [bounds.
We know not where to fix their several
If you would please the public, deign to hear
What soothes the many-headed monster's ear:
If your heart triumph when the hands of all
Applaud in thunder at the curtain's fall,
Deserve those plaudits—study nature's page,
And sketch the striking traits of every age;
While varying man and varying years unfold
Life's little tale, so oft, so vainly told;
Observe his simple childhood's dawning days,
His pranks, his prate, his playmates, and his plays;
Till time at length the mannish tyro weans,
And prurient vice outstrips his tardy teens!

Behold him Freshman! forced no more to groan
O'er Virgil's devilish verses and his own;*
Prayers are too tedious, lectures too abstruse,
He flies from Tavell's frown to "Fordham's Mews";
(Unlucky Tavell! doom'd to daily cares†
By pugilistic pupils, and by bears:)
Fines, tutors, tasks, conventions threat in vain, [plain.
Before hounds, hunters, and Newmarket
Rough with his elders, with his equals rash,
Civil to sharpers, prodigal of cash; [whore,
Constant to nought—save hazard and a
Yet cursing both—for both have made him sore;
Unread (unless, since books beguile disease,
The p—x becomes his passage to degrees);
Fool'd, pillaged, dunn'd, he wastes his term
And unexpell'd, perhaps, retires M.A.; [away,
Master of arts! as *hells* and *clubs* proclaim,*
Where scarce a blackleg bears a brighter name!

Launch'd into life, extinct his early fire,
He apes the selfish prudence of his sire;
Marries for money, chooses friends for rank,
Buys land, and shrewdly trusts not to the Bank;
Sits in the Senate; gets a son and heir:
Sends him to Harrow, for himself was there.
Mute, though he votes, unless when call'd to cheer,
His son's so sharp—he'll see the dog a peer!

Manhood declines—age palsies every limb;
He quits the scene—or else the scene quits him; [grieves,
Scrapes wealth, o'er each departing penny
And avarice seizes all ambition leaves;
Counts cent. per cent. and smiles, or vainly frets [debts:
O'er hoards diminish'd by young Hopeful's
Weighs well and wisely what to sell or buy,
Complete in all life's lessons—but to die;
Peevish and spiteful, doting, hard to please,
Commending every time, save times like these;
Crazed, querulous, forsaken, half forgot,
Expires unwept—is buried—let him rot!

But from the drama let me not digress,
Nor spare my precepts, though they please you less. [stirr'd,
Though woman weep, and hardest hearts are
When what is done is rather seen than heard,
Yet many deeds preserved in history's page
Are better told than acted on the stage;
The ear sustains what shocks the timid eye,
And horror thus subsides to sympathy.
True Briton all beside—I here am French—
Bloodshed 'tis surely better to retrench;
The gladiatorial gore we teach to flow
In tragic scene disgusts, though but in show;
We hate the carnage, while we see the trick,
And find small sympathy in being sick.
Not on the stage the regicide Macbeth
Appals an audience with a monarch's death;
To gaze when sable Hubert threats to sear
Young Arthur's eyes, can *ours* or *nature* bear?
A halter'd heroine Johnson sought to slay†—
We sav'd Irene, but half damn'd the play,
And (Heaven be praised!) our tolerating times
Stint metamorphoses to pantomimes;
And Lewis' self, with all his sprites, would quake
To change Earl Osmond's negro to a snake!

trust that Mr. Townsend's share will be from envy; he will soon know mankind well enough not to attribute this expression to malice.

* Harvey, the circulator of the circulation of the blood, used to fling away Virgil in his ecstasy of admiration and say, "the book had a devil." Now, such a character as I am copying would probably fling it away also, but rather wish that the devil had the book; not from dislike to the poet, but a well-founded horror of hexameters. Indeed, the public school penance of "Long and Short" is enough to beget an antipathy to poetry for the residue of a man's life, and, perhaps, so far may be an advantage.

† "Infandum, regina, jubes renovare dolorem." I dare say Mr. Tavell (to whom I mean no affront) will understand me; and it is no matter whether any one else does or no.—To the above events, "quæque ipse miserrima vidi, et quorum pars magna fui," all times and terms bear testimony.

* "Hell," a gaming-house so called, where you risk little, and are cheated a good deal. "Club," a pleasant purgatory, where you lose more, and are not supposed to be cheated at all.

† "Irene had to speak two lines with the bow-string round her neck; but the audience cried out 'murder!' and she was obliged to go off the stage alive."—Boswell's Johnson.

ecause, in scenes exciting joy or grief,
e loathe the action which exceeds belief :
nd yet, God knows, what may not authors do,
hose postscripts prate of dying "heroines blue."*

Above all things, *Dan* Poet, if you can,
ke out your acts, I pray, with mortal man,
or call a ghost, unless some cursed scrape
ust open ten trap-doors for your escape.
f all the monstrous things I'd fain forbid,
oathe an opera worse than Dennis did ;
here good and evil persons, right or wrong,
age, love, and aught but moralize, in song.
ail, last memorial of our foreign friends,
hich Gaul allows, and still Hesperia lends !
apoleon's edicts no embargo lay
whores, spies, singers, wisely shipp'd away.
ur giant capital, whose squares are spread
here rustics earn'd, and now may beg, their bread,
all iniquity is grown so nice,
scorns amusements which are not of price.
nce the pert shopkeeper, whose throbbing ear
hes with orchestras which he pays to hear,
hom shame, not sympathy, forbids to snore,
s anguish doubling by his own "encore";
ueezed in "Fop's Alley," jostled by the beaux,
ased with his hat, and trembling for his toes;
arce wrestles through the night, nor tastes of ease,
ll the dropp'd curtain gives a glad release :
hy this, and more, he suffers—can ye guess?— [dress !
cause it costs him dear, and makes him

So prosper eunuchs from Etruscan schools ;
ve us but fiddlers, and they're sure of fools !
e scenes were play'd by many a reverend clerk,†
hat harm if David danced before the ark?)
Christmas revels, simple country folks
re pleased with morrice-mumm'ry and coarse jokes. [known,
proving years, with things no longer
oduced blithe Punch and merry Madame Joan,
o still frisk on with feats so lewdly low,
s strange Benvolio suffers such a show ;‡

Suppressing peer ! to whom each vice gives place, [race.
Oaths, boxing, begging,—all, save rout and

Farce follow'd Comedy, and reach'd her prime,
In ever-laughing Foote's fantastic time :
Mad wag ! who pardon'd none, nor spared the best,
And turn'd some very serious things to jest.
Nor church nor state escaped his public sneers,
Arms nor the gown, priests, lawyers, volunteers :
"Alas, poor Yorick !" now forever mute !
Whoever loves a laugh must sigh for Foote.

We smile, perforce, when histrionic scenes
Ape the swoln dialogue of kings and queens,
When "Chrononhotonthologos must die,"
And Arthur struts in mimic majesty.

Moschus ! with whom once more I hope to sit,
And smile at folly, if we can't at wit ;
Yes, friend ! for thee I'll quit my cynic cell,
And bear Swift's motto, "Vive la bagatelle !"
Which charm'd our days in each Ægean clime,
As oft at home, with revelry and rhyme.
Then may Euphrosyne, who sped the past,
Soothe thy life's scenes, nor leave thee in the last ;
But find in thine, like pagan Plato's bed,*
Some merry manuscript of mimes, when dead.

Now to the drama let us bend our eyes,
Where fetter'd by whig Walpole low she lies ;
Corruption foil'd her, for she fear'd her glance;
Decorum left her for an opera dance !
Yet Chesterfield, whose polish'd pen inveighs†
'Gainst laughter, fought for freedom to our plays ;
Uncheck'd by megrims of patrician brains,
And damning dulness of lord chamberlains.
Repeal that act ! again let Humor roam
Wild o'er the stage—we've time for tears at home.
Let "Archer" plant the horns on "Sullen's" brows,
And "Estifania" gull her "Copper" spouse ;‡
The moral's scant—but that may be excused,
Men go not to be lectured, but amused.
He whom our plays dispose to good or ill
Must wear a head in want of Willis' skill ;
Ay, but Macheath's example—psha!—no more!
It form'd no thieves—the thief was form'd before ?
And, spite of puritans and Collier's curse,‖
Plays make mankind no better, and no worse.

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* In the postscript to the "Castle Spectre," Mr. Lewis tells us, that though blacks were unknown in England in the period of his action, yet he has made the anachronism to set off the scene : and if he could have produced the effect "by making his heroine blue,"—I quote him—"blue he would have made her !"

† "The first theatrical representations, entitled 'Mysteries and Moralities,' were generally enacted at Christmas, by monks (as the only persons who could read), and latterly by the clergy and students of the universities. The dramatis personæ were usually Adam, Pater Noster, Faith, Vice, etc., etc."—See Warton's History of English Poetry.

‡ Benvolio does not bet : but every man who maintains race-horses is a promoter of all the concomitant evils of the turf. Avoiding to bet is a little pharisaical. Is an exculpation ? I think not. I never yet heard a lord praised for chastity, because she herself did not commit fornication.

* Under Plato's pillow a volume of the "Mimes" of Sophron was found the day he died,—Vide Barthelemi, De Pauw, or Diogenes Laertius, if agreeable. De Pauw calls it a jest-book. Cumberland, in his Observer, terms it moral, like the sayings of Publius Syrus.

† His speech on the Licensing Act is one of his most eloquent efforts.

‡ Michael Perez, the Copper Captain, in "Rule a Wife and have a Wife."

‖ Jerry Collier's controversy with Congreve, etc., on the subject of the drama, is too well known to require further comment.

Then spare our stage, ye methodistic men!
Nor burn damn'd Drury if it rise again.
But why to brain-scorch'd bigots thus appeal?
Can heavenly mercy dwell with earthly zeal?
For times of fire and faggot let them hope!
Times dear alike to puritan or pope.
As pious Calvin saw Servetus blaze,
So would new sects on newer victims gaze.
E'en now the songs of Solyma begin;
Faith cants, perplex'd apologist of sin!
While the Lord's servants chastens whom he loves, ‡"shoves."†
And Simeon kicks,* where Baxter only

Whom nature guides, so writes that every dunce,
Enraptured, thinks to do the same at once;
But after inky thumbs and bitten nails, [fails.
And twenty scatter'd quires, the coxcomb

Let Pastoral be dumb; for who can hope
To match the youthful eclogues of our Pope?
Yet his and Phillips' faults, of different kind,
For art too rude, for nature too refined,
Instruct how hard the medium 'tis to hit
'Twixt too much polish and too coarse a wit.

A vulgar scribbler, certes, stands disgraced
In this nice age, when all aspire to taste!
The dirty language, and the noisome jest,
Which pleased in Swift of yore, we now detest,
Proscribed not only in the world polite,
But even too nasty for a city knight!

Peace to Swift's faults! his wit hath made them pass,
Unmatch'd by all, save matchless Hudibras!
Whose author is perhaps the first we meet,
Who from our couplet lopp'd two final feet;
Nor less in merit than the longer line,
This measure moves a favorite of the Nine.
Though at first view eight feet may seem in vain
Form'd, save in ode, to bear a serious strain,
Yet Scott has shown our wondering isle of late
This measure shrinks not from a theme of [weight,
And, varied skilfully, surpasses far
Heroic rhyme, but most in love and war,
Whose fluctuations, tender or sublime,
Are curb'd too much by long-recurring rhyme.

But many a skillful judge abhors to see,
What few admire—irregularity.
This some vouchsafe to pardon; but 'tis hard
When such a word contents a British bard.

And must the bard his glowing thoughts confine,
Lest censure hover o'er some faulty line?
Remove whate'er a critic may suspect,
To gain the paltry suffrage of "*correct*"?
Or prune the spirit of each daring phrase,
To fly from error, not to merit praise?

Ye, who seek finish'd models, never cease,
By day and night, to read the works of Greece.
But our good fathers never bent their brains
To heathen Greek, content with native strains.
The few who read a page, or used a pen,
Were satisfied with Chaucer and old Ben;
The jokes and numbers suited to their taste
Were quaint and careless, anything but chaste!
Yet whether right or wrong the ancient rules,
It will not do to call our fathers fools!
Though you and I, who erudite know
To separate the elegant and low,
Can also, when a hobbling line appears,
Detect with fingers, in default of ears.

In sooth I do not know, or greatly care
To learn, who our first English strollers were;
Or if, till roofs received the vagrant art
Our Muse, like that of Thespis, kept a cart;
But this is certain, since our Shakspeare's days,
There's pomp enough, if little else, in plays;
Nor will Melpomene ascend her throne
Without high heels, white plume, and Bristol stone.

Old comedies still meet with much applause,
Though too licentious for dramatic laws;
At least, we moderns, wisely, 'tis confest,
Curtail or silence the lascivious jest.

Whate'er their follies and their faults beside,
Our enterprising bards pass nought untried;
Nor do they merit slight applause who choose
An English subject for an English muse,
And leave to minds which never dare invent
French flippancy and German sentiment.
Where is that living language which could
Poetic more, as philosophic, fame, [claim
If all our bards, more patient of delay,
Would stop, like Pope, to polish by the way?

Lords of the quill, whose critical assaults
O'erthrow whole quartos with their quires of faults,
Who soon detect, and mark where'er we fail,
And prove our marble with too nice a nail!
Democritus himself was not so bad;
He only *thought*, but *you* would make, us mad!

But truth to say, most rhymers rarely guard
Against that ridicule they deem so hard;
In person negligent, they wear, from sloth,
Beards of a week, and nails of annual growth;
Reside in garrets, fly from those they meet,
And walk in alleys, rather than the street.

With little rhyme, less reason, if you please,
The name of poet may be got with ease,
So that not tuns of helleboric juice
Shall ever turn your head to any use; [Lake,
Write but like Wordsworth, live beside a

---

* Mr. Simeon is the very bully of beliefs, and castigator of "good works." He is ably supported by John Stickles, a laborer in the same vineyard:—but I say no more, for, according to Johnny in full congregation, "No hopes for them as laughs."

† "Baxter's Shove to heavy-a—d Christians," the veritable title of a book once in good repute, and likely enough to be so again.

id keep your bushy locks a year from Blake ;* [town,
en print your book, once more return to
id boys shall hunt your bardship up and down.

Am I not wise, if such some poets' plight,
purge in spring—like Bayes—before I write ?
this precaution soften'd not my bile,
know no scribbler with a madder style ;
at since (perhaps my feelings are too nice)
cannot purchase fame at such a price,
l labor gratis as a grinder's wheel,
id, blunt myself, give edge to others' steel,
r write at all, unless to teach the art
those rehearsing for the poet's part ;
rom Horace show the pleasing paths of song,
id from my own example—what is wrong.

Though modern practice sometimes differs quite,
is just as well to think before you write ;
t every book that suits your theme be read,
shall you trace it to the fountain-head.

He who has learn'd the duty which he owes
friends and country, and to pardon foes ;
ho models his deportment as may best
cord with brother, sire, or stranger guest ;
ho takes our laws and worship as they are,
r roars reform for senate, church, and bar;
practice, rather than loud precept, wise,
ds not his tongue, but heart, philosophize:
ch is the man the poet should rehearse,
joint exemplar of his life and verse.

Sometimes a sprightly wit, and tale well told, [hold
ithout much grace, or weight, or art, will
longer empire o'er the public mind
nan sounding trifles, empty, though refined.

Unhappy Greece ! thy sons of ancient days
ne muse may celebrate with perfect praise,
hose generous children narrow'd not their hearts
ith commerce, given alone to arms and arts.
ur boys (save those whom public schools compel [to spell)
"long and short" before they're taught
om frugal fathers soon imbibe by rote,
A penny saved, my lad, 's a penny got."
be of a city birth ! from sixpence take
he third, how much will the remainder make ?— [the sum !
A groat."—"Ah, bravo ! Dick hath done
e'll swell my fifty thousand to a plum."

They whose young souls receive this rust betimes,
is clear, are fit for anything but rhymes ;
id Locke will tell you, that the father's right
ho hides all verses from his children's sight;

For poets (says this sage, and many more,)*
Make sad mechanics with their lyric lore ;
And Delphi now, however rich of old,
Discovers little silver, and less gold,
Because Parnassus, though a mount divine,
Is poor as Irus,† or an Irish mine.‡

Two objects always should the poet move,
Or one or both,—to please or to improve.
Whate'er you teach, be brief, if you design
For our remembrance your didactic line;
Redundance places memory on the rack,
For brains may be o'erloaded, like the back.

Fiction does best when taught to look like truth,
And fairy fables bubble none but youth :
Expect no credit for too wondrous tales,
Since Jonas only springs alive from whales !

Young men with aught but elegance dispense ;
Maturer years require a little sense.
To end at once :—that bard for all is fit
Who mingles well instruction with his wit ;
For him reviews shall smile, for him o'erflow
The patronage of Paternoster-row ; [pass
His book, with Longman's liberal aid, shall
(Who ne'er despises books that bring him brass) ;
Through three long weeks the taste of London lead,
And cross St. George's Channel and the Tweed.

But everything has faults, nor is't unknown
That harps and fiddles often lose their tone,
And wayward voices, at their owner's call,
With all his best endeavors, only squall ;
Dogs blink their covey, flints withhold the spark, [mark.§
And double-barrels (damn them !) miss their

Where frequent beauties strike the reader's view,
We must not quarrel for a blot or two ;
But pardon equally to books or men,
The slips of human nature, and the pen.

Yet if an author, spite of foe or friend,
Despises all advice too much to mend,
But ever twangs the same discordant string,
Give him no quarter, howsoe'er he sing.

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* As famous a tonsor as Licinus himself, and better id, and may, like him, be one day a senator, having a tter qualification than one-half of the heads he crops, .—independence.

* I have not the original by me, but the Italian translation runs as follows :—"È una cosa a mio credere molto stravagante, che un padre desideri, o permetta, che suo figliuolo coltivi e perfezioni questo talento." A little further on : "Si trovano di rado nel Parnaso le miniere d'oro e d'argento."—"Educazione dei Fanciulli" del Signor Locke.

† "Iro pauperior"; this is the same beggar who boxed with Ulysses for a pound of kid's fry, which he lost, and half a dozen teeth besides.—See Odyssey, b. 18.

‡ The Irish gold mine of Wicklow, which yields just ore enough to swear by, or gild a bad guinea.

§ As Mr. Pope took the liberty of damning Homer, to whom he was under great obligations—"And Homer (damn him !) calls"—it may be presumed that anybody or anything may be damned in verse by poetical license ; and, in case of accident, I beg leave to plead so illustrious a precedent.

Let Havard's fate o'ertake him,* who, for once,
Produced a play too dashing for a dunce :
At first none deem'd it his ; but when his name [fame.
Announced the fact—what then ?—it lost its
Though all deplore when Milton deigns to doze,
In a long work 'tis fair to steal repose.

As pictures, so shall poems be ; some stand
The critic eye, and please when near at hand;
But others at a distance strike the sight ;
This seeks the shade, but that demands the light,
Nor dreads the connoisseur's fastidious view,
But, ten times scrutinized, is ten times new.

Parnassian pilgrims ! ye whom chance or choice
Hath led to listen to the Muse's voice,
Receive this counsel, and be timely wise ;
Few reach the summit which before you lies.
Our church and state, our courts and camps, concede
Reward to very moderate heads indeed !
In these plain common sense will travel far ;
All are not Erskines who mislead the bar :
But poesy between the best and worst
No medium knows ; you must be last or first,
For middling poets' miserable volumes
Are damn'd alike by gods, and men, and columns.

Again, my Jeffrey !—as that sound inspires,
How wakes my bosom to its wonted fires !
Fires, such as gentle Caledonians feel
When Southrons writhe upon their critic wheel, [Turks,†
Or mild Eclectics, when some, worse than
Would rob poor Faith to decorate "good works."
Such are the genial feelings thou canst claim—
My falcon flies not at ignoble game.
Mightiest of all Dunedin's beasts of chase !
For thee my Pegasus would mend his pace.
Arise, my Jeffrey ! or my inkless pen
Shall never blunt its edge on meaner men ;
Till thee or thine mine evil eye discerns,
Alas ! "I cannot strike at wretched kernes."
Inhuman Saxon ! wilt thou then resign
A muse and heart by choice so wholly thine ?
Dear d—d contemner of my schoolboy songs,
Hast thou no vengeance for my manhood's wrongs ?
If unprovoked thou once could bid me bleed,
Hast thou no weapon for my daring deed ?
What ! not a word !—and am I then so low ?
Wilt thou forbear, who never spared a foe ?
Hast thou no wrath, or wish to give it vent ?
No wit for nobles, dunces by descent ?
No jest on "minors," quibbles on a name,
Nor one facetious paragraph of blame ?
Is it for this on Ilion I have stood,
And thought of Homer less than Holyrood ?
On shore of Euxine or Ægean sea,
My hate, untravell'd, fondly turn'd to thee.
Ah ! let me cease : in vain my bosom burns,
From Corydon unkind Alexis turns :*
Thy rhymes are vain ; thy Jeffrey then forego,
Nor woo that anger which he will not show.
What then ?—Edina starves some lanker son,
To write an article thou canst not shun ;
Some less fastidious Scotchman shall be found,
As bold in Billingsgate, though less renown'd.

As if at table some discordant dish
Should shock our optics, such as frogs or fish ;
As oil in lieu of butter men decry,
And poppies please not in a modern pie ;
If all such mixtures then be half a crime,
We must have excellence to relish rhyme.
Mere roast and boil'd no epicure invites ;
Thus poetry disgusts, or else delights.

Who shoot not flying rarely touch a gun ;
Will he who swims not to the river run ?
And men unpractised to exchanging knocks
Must go to Jackson ere they dare to box.
Whate'er the weapon, cudgel, fist, or foil,
None reach expertness without years of toil ;
But fifty dunces can, with perfect ease,
Tag twenty thousand couplets, when they please.
Why not ?—shall I, thus qualified to sit
For rotten boroughs, never show my wit ?
Shall I, whose fathers with the quorum sate,
And lived in freedom on a fair estate ;
Who left me heir, with stables, kennels, packs,
To *all* their income, and to—*twice* its tax ;
Whose form and pedigree have scarce a fault,
Shall I, I say, suppress my Attic salt ? [you,
Thus think "the mob of gentlemen"; but
Besides all this, must have some genius too.
Be this your sober judgment, and a rule,

* For the story of Billy Havard's tragedy, see "Davies's Life of Garrick." I believe it is "Regulus," or "Charles the First." The moment it was known to be his the theatre thinned, and the bookseller refused to give the customary sum for the copyright.

† To the Eclectic or Christian Reviewers I have to return thanks for the fervor of that charity which, in 1809, induced them to express a hope that a thing then published by me might lead to certain consequences, which, although natural enough, surely came but rashly from reverend lips. I refer them to their own pages, where they congratulated themselves on the prospect of a tilt between Mr. Jeffrey and myself, from which some great good was to accrue, provided one or both were knocked on the head. Having survived two years and a half those "Elegies" which they were kindly preparing to review, I have no peculiar gusto to give them "so joyful a trouble," except indeed "upon compulsion. Hal;" but if, as David says in the "Rivals," it should come to "bloody sword and gun-fighting," we "won't run, will we, Sir Lucius?" I do not know what I had done to those Eclectic gentlemen ; my works are their lawful perquisite, to be hewn in pieces like Agag, if it seem meet unto them : but why they should be in such a hurry to kill off their author, I am ignorant. "The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong;" and now, as these Christians have "smote me on one cheek," I hold them up the other ; and, in return for their good wishes, give them an opportunity of repeating them. Had any other set of men expressed such sentiments, I should have smiled, and left them to the "recording angel;" but from the pharisees of Christianity decency might be expected. I can assure these brethren, that, publican and sinner as I am, I would not have treated "mine enemy's dog thus." To show them the superiority of my brotherly love, if ever the Reverend Messrs. Simeon or Ramsden should be engaged in such a conflict as that in which they requested me to fall, I hope they may escape with being "winged" only, and that Heaviside may be at hand to extract the ball.

* Invenies alium, si te hic fastidit Alexin,

d print not piping hot from Southey's
school,
ho (ere another Thalaba appears)
rust will spare us for at least nine years.
d hark ye, Southey !* pray, but don't be
vex'd,
irn all your last three works—and half the
next.
t why this vain advice ?—once publish'd,
books
ú never be recall'd—from pastry-cooks !
nough "Madoc," with "Pucelle," instead
of punk,†

May travel back to Quito—on a trunk !*

Orpheus, we learn from Ovid and Lempriere,
Led all wild beasts but women by the ear ;
And had he fiddled at the present hour,
We'd seen the lions waltzing in the Tower ;
And old Amphion, such were minstrels then,
Had built St. Paul's without the aid of Wren.
Verse too was justice, and the bards of Greece
Did more than constables to keep the peace ;
Abolish'd cuckoldom with much applause,
Call'd county meetings, and enforced the laws,
Cut down crown influence with reforming scythes, [tithes ;
And served the church—without demanding
And hence, throughout all Hellas and the
Each poet was a prophet and a priest, [East,
Whose old-established board of joint controls
Included kingdoms in the cure of souls.

Next rose the martial Homer, Epic's prince,
And fighting's been in fashion ever since ;
And old Tyrtæus, when the Spartans warr'd,
(A limping leader, but a lofty bard.)
Though wall'd Ithome had resisted long,
Reduced the fortress by the force of song.

When oracles prevail'd, in times of old,
In song alone Apollo's will was told.
Then if your verse is what all verse should be,
And gods were not ashamed on't, why should
we ?

The Muse, like mortal females, may be
woo'd ;
In turns she'll seem a Paphian, or a prude ;
Fierce as a bride when first she feels affright,
Mild as the same upon the second night ;
Wild as the wife of alderman or peer,
Now for his grace, and now a grenadier !
Her eyes beseem, her heart belies, her zone,
Ice in a crowd, and lava when alone.

If verse be studied with some show of art,
Kind Nature always will perform her part ;
Though without genius, and a native vein
Of wit, we loathe an artificial strain,
Yet art and nature join'd will win the prize,
Unless they act like us and our allies.

The youth who trains to ride, or run a race,
Must bear privations with unruffled face,
Be call'd to labor when he thinks to dine,
And, harder still, leave wenching and his wine.
Ladies who sing, at least who sing at sight,
Have follow'd music through her farthest
flight ;
But rhymers tell you neither more nor less,
"I've got a pretty poem for the press" ;
And that's enough ; then write and print so
fast ;—
If Satan take the hindmost, who'd be last ?
They storm the types, they publish, one and
all,

---

y Mr. Southey has lately tied another canister to his
il in the "Curse of Kehama," maugre the neglect of
doc, etc., and has in one instance had a wonderful
ject. A literary friend of mine, walking out one lovely
ening last summer, on the eleventh bridge of the Pad-
ington canal, was alarmed by the cry of "one in jeop-
dy" : he rushed along, collected a body of Irish hay-
akers (supping on butter-milk in an adjacent pad
ock), procured three rakes, one eel-spear, and a land-
g net, and at last (horresco referens) pulled out his
in publisher. The unfortunate man was gone for-
ver, and so was a large quarto wherewith he had taken
s leap, which proved, on inquiry, to have been Mr.
outhey's last work. Its "alacrity of sinking" was so
eat that it has never since been heard of ; though
ne maintain that it is at this moment concealed at
ierman Birch's pastry premises, Cornhill. Be this as
nay, the coroner's inquest brought in a verdict of
'eio de bibliopola" against a "quarto unknown";
it circumstantial evidence being since strong against
e "Curse of Kehama" (of which the above words are
extract description), it will be tried by its peers next
sion, in Grub-street—Arthur, Alfred, Davideis, Rich-
d Cœur de Lion, Exodus Exodia, Epigoniad, Calvary,
ll of Cambria, Siege of Acre, Don Roderick, and Tom
umb the Great, are the names of the twelve jurors.
e judges are Pye, Bowles, and the bell man of St.
ulchre's. The same advocates, pro and con, will be
ployed as are now engaged in Sir F. Burdett's cele-
ated cause in the Scotch courts. The public anxiously
ait the result, and all live publishers will be sub-
naed as witnesses.—But Mr. Southey has published
e "Curse of Kehama,"—an inviting title to quibblers.
-the-by, it is a good deal beneath Scott and Camp-
ll, and not much above Southey, to allow the booby
llantyne to entitle them in the Edinburgh Annual
gister (of which, by-the-way, Southey is editor), "the
ind poetical triumvirate of the day." But, on second
oughts, it can be no great degree of praise to be the
e-eyed leaders of the blind, though they might as
ll keep to themselves "Scott's thirty thousand copies
d," which must sadly discomfit poor Southey's un-
ubles. Poor Southey, it should seem, is the "Lepi-
s" of this poetical triumvirate. I am only surprised
see him in such good company.

† "Such things, we know, are neither rich nor rare,
But wonder how the devil he came there."

e trio are well defined in the sixth proposition of
elid : "Because, in the triangles D B C, A C B, D B is
ual to A C, and B C common to both ; the two sides D
B C, are equal to the two A C, C B, each to each, and
angle D B C is equal to the angle A C B : therefore,
base D C is equal to the base A B, and the triangle
B C (Mr. Southey) is equal to the triangle A C B, the
s to the greater, which is absurd, etc."—The editor of
Edinburgh Register will find the rest of the theorem
d by his stabling ; he has only to cross the river :
the first turnpike t'other side "Pons Asinorum."*

This Latin has sorely puzzled the University of
inburgh. Ballantyne said it meant the "Bridge of
rwick," but Southey claimed it as half English ; Scott
ore it was the "Brig o' Stirling" ; he had just passed
o King Jameses and a dozen Douglases over it. At
it was decided by Jeffrey that it meant nothing
re nor less than the "counter of Archy Constable's
op."

Voltaire's "Pucelle" is not quite so immaculate as
. Southey "Joan of Arc," and yet I am afraid the
enchman has both more truth and poetry too on his
e—(they rarely go together)—than our patriotic min-
rel, whose first essay was in praise of a fanatical
nch strumpet, whose title of witch would be correct
th the change of the first letter.

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* Like Sir Bland Burgess's "Richard" ; the tenth book of which I read at Malta, on a trunk of Eyre's, 19 Cockspur-street. If this be doubted, I shall buy a portmanteau to quote from.

They leap the counter, and they leave the stall.
Provincial maidens, men of high command,
Yea, baronets have ink'd the bloody hand!
Cash cannot quell them; Pollio play'd this prank,
(Then Phœbus first found credit in a bank!)
Not all the living only, but the dead,
Fool on, as fluent as an Orpheus' head;*
Damn'd all their days, they posthumously thrive,
Dug up from dust, though buried when alive!
Reviews record this epidemic crime,
Those Books of Martyrs to the rage for rhyme,
Alas! woe worth the scribbler! often seen
In Morning Post or Monthly Magazine.
There lurk his earlier lays; but soon, hot press'd,
Behold a quarto!—Tarts must tell the rest.
Then leave, ye wise, the lyre's precarious chords
To muse-mad baronets, or madder lords,
Or country Crispins, now grown somewhat stale,
Twin Doric minstrels, drunk with Doric ale!
Hark to those notes, narcotically soft!
The cobbler-laureats† sing to Capel Lofft!‡
Till lo! that modern Midas, as he hears,
Adds an ell growth to his egregious ears!

There lives one druid, who prepares in time
'Gainst future feuds his poor revenge of rhyme;
Racks his dull memory, and his duller muse,
To publish faults which friendship should excuse.
If friendship's nothing, self-regard might teach
More polish'd usage of his parts of speech.
But what is shame, or what is aught to him?
He vents his spleen or gratifies his whim.
Some fancied slight has roused his lurking hate,
Some folly cross'd, some jest, or some debate;
Up to his den Sir Scribbler hies, and soon
The gather'd gall is voided in lampoon.
Perhaps at some pert speech you've dared to frown,
Perhaps your poem may have pleased the town;
If so, alas! 'tis nature in the man—
May Heaven forgive you, for he never can!
Then be it so; and may his withering bays
Bloom fresh in satire, though they fade in praise!
While his lost songs no more shall steep and stink,
The dullest, fattest weeds on Lethe's brink,
But springing upwards from the sluggish mould,
Be (what they never were before) be—sold!
Should some rich bard (but such a monster now,
In modern physics, we can scarce allow),
Should some pretending scribbler of the court,
Some rhyming peer—there's plenty of the sort—*

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* "Tum quoque marmorea caput a cervice revulsum,
Gurgite cum medio portans Œagrius Hebrus,
Volveret Eurydicen vox ipsa, et frigida lingua;
Ah, miseram Eurydicen! anima fugiente vocabat:
Eurydicen toto referebant flumine ripæ."
—Georgic., iv., 523.

† "The cobbler-laureats." I beg Nathaniel's pardon; he is not a cobbler; it is a tailor, but begged Capel Lofft to sink the profession in his preface to two pair of panta-psha!—of cantos, which he wished the public to try on; but the sieve of a patron let it out, and so far saved the expense of an advertisement to his country customers.—Merry's "Moorfield's whine" was nothing to all this. The "Della Cruscans" were people of some education, and no profession; but these Arcadians ("Arcades ambo"—bumpkins both) send out their native nonsense without the smallest alloy, and leave all the shoes and small clothes in the parish unrepaired, to patch up Elegies on Enclosures and Pæans to Gunpowder. Sitting on a shopboard, they describe the fields of battle, when the only blood they ever saw was shed from the finger; and an "Essay on War" is produced by the ninth part of a "poet."

"And own that nine such poets made a Tate."

Did Nathan ever read that line of Pope? and if he did, why not take it as his motto?

‡ This well-meaning gentleman has spoiled some excellent shoemakers, and been accessory to the poetical undoing of many of the industrious poor. Nathaniel Bloomfield and his brother Bobby have set all Somersetshire singing; nor has the malady confined itself to one county. Pratt too (who once was wiser) has caught the contagion of patronage, and decoyed a poor fellow named Blackett into poetry; but he died during the operation, leaving one child and two volumes of "Remains" utterly destitute. The girl, if she don't take a poetical twist, and come forth as a shoemaking Sappho, may do well; but the "tragedies" are as rickety as if they had been the offspring of an Earl or a Seatonian prize poet. The patrons of this poor lad are certainly answerable for his end; and it ought to be an indictable offence. But this is the least they have done; for, by a refinement of barbarity, they have made the (late) man posthumously ridiculous, by printing what he would have had sense enough never to print himself. Certes these rakers of "Remains" come under the statute against "resurrection men." What does it signify whether a poor dear dead dunce is to be stuck up in Surgeons' or in Stationers' Hall? Is it so bad to unearth his bones as his blunders? Is it not better to gibbet his body on a heath, than his soul in an octavo? We know what we are, but we know not what we may be; and it is to be hoped we never shall know, if a man who has passed through life with a sort of eclat is to find himself a mountebank on the other side of Styx, and made, like poor Blackett, the laughing-stock of purgatory. The plea of publication is to provide for the child; now, might not some of this "Sutor ultra Crepidam's" friends and seducers have done a decent action without inveigling Pratt into biography? And then his inscription split into so many modicums!—"To the Duchess of Somuch, the Right Hon. So-and-so, and Mrs. and Miss Somebody, these volumes are," etc., etc.—why, this is doling out the "soft milk of dedication" in gills,—there is but a quart, and he divides it among a dozen. Why, Pratt, hadst thou not a puff left? Dost thou think six families of distinction can share this in quiet? There is a child, a book, and a dedication; send the girl to her Grace, the volumes to the grocer, and the dedication to the devil.

* Here will Mr. Gifford allow me to introduce once more to his notice the sole survivor, the "ultimus Romanorum," the last of the Cruscanti—"Edwin" the "profound," by our Lady of Punishment! here he is, as lively as in the days of "well said Baviad the Correct." I thought Fitzgerald had been the tail of poesy; but, alas! he is only the penultimate.

A FAMILIAR EPISTLE TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

"What reams of paper, floods of ink,"
Do some men spoil, who never think!
And so perhaps you'll say of me,
In which your readers may agree.
Still I write on, and tell you why:
Nothing's so bad, you can't deny,
But may instruct or entertain
Without the risk of giving pain, etc., etc.

ON SOME MODERN QUACKS AND REFORMERS.

In tracing of the human mind
Through all its various courses,
Though strange, 'tis true, we often find
It knows not its resources;

il but one poor dependent priest withdrawn,
lh! too regardless of his chaplain's yawn!)
ondemn the unlucky curate to recite
neir last dramatic work by candle-light,
ow would the preacher turn each rueful leaf,
ill as his sermons, but not half so brief!
t, since 'tis promised at the rector's death,
'll risk no living for a little breath.
nen spouts and foams, and cries at every line, [divine!"
he Lord forgive him!) "Bravo! grand!
arse with those praises (which, by flatt'ry fed,
pendence barters for her bitter bread),
e strides and stamps along with creaking boot,
il the floor echoes his emphatic foot,
nen sits again, then rolls his pious eye,
when the dying vicar will not die!
r feels, forsooth, emotion at his heart;—
nt all dissemblers overact their part.

Ye, who aspire to "build the lofty rhyme,"
lieve not all who laud your false "sublime";
t if some friend shall hear your work, and say,
Expunge that stanza, lop that line away,"
d, after fruitless efforts, you return
ithout amendment, and he answers, "Burn!"
at instant throw your paper in the fire,
k not his thoughts, or follow his desire;
t if (true bard!) you scorn to condescend,
d will not alter what you can't defend,
you will breed this bastard of your brains,*
e'll have no words—I've only lost my pains.

Yet, if you only prize your favorite thought,
critics kindly do, and authors ought;
your cool friend annoy you now and then,
d cross whole pages with his plaguy pen;
matter, throw your ornaments aside,—
tter let him than all the world deride.
ve light to passages too much in shade,
r let a doubt obscure one verse you've made;
ur friend's a "Johnson," not to leave one word,
wever trifling, which may seem absurd;
ch erring trifles lead to serious ills,
d furnish food for critics, or their quills.†

As the Scotch fiddle, with its touching tune,
the sad influence of the angry moon,

All men avoid bad writers' ready tongues,
As yawning waiters fly* Fitzscribble's lungs;
Yet on he mouths—ten minutes—tedious each
As prelate's homily, or placeman's speech;
Long as the last years of a lingering lease,
When riot pauses until rents increase.
While such a minstrel, muttering fustian, strays [ways,
O'er hedge and ditch, through unfrequented
If by some chance he walks into a well,
And shouts for succor with stentorian yell,
"A rope! help, Christians, as ye hope for grace!"
Nor woman, man, nor child will stir a pace;
For there his carcass he might freely fling,
From frenzy, or the humor of the thing. [one;
Though this has happen'd to more bards than
I'll tell you Budgell's story,—and have done.

Budgell, a rogue and rhymster, for no good,
(Unless his case be much understood,)
When teased with creditors' continual claims,
"To die like Cato," leapt into the Thames!†
And therefore be it lawful through the town
For any bard to poison, hang, or drown.
Who saves the intended suicide receives
Small thanks from him who loathes the life he leaves;
And, sooth to say, mad poets must not lose
The glory of that death they freely choose.

Nor is it certain that some sorts of verse
Prick not the poet's conscience as a curse;
Dosed‡ with vile drams on Sunday he was found,
Or got a child on consecrated ground!
And hence is haunted with a rhyming rage—
Fear'd like a bear just bursting from his cage.
If free, all fly his versifying fit,
Fatal at once to simpleton or wit;
But *him*, unhappy! whom he seizes,—*him*
He flays with recitation limb by limb;
Probes to the quick where'er he makes his breach,
And gorges like a lawyer—or a leech.

And men through life assume a part
For which no talents they possess,
Yet wonder that, with all their art,
They meet no better with success, etc., etc.

Minerva being the first by Jupiter's head-piece, and variety of equally unaccountable parturitions upon th, such as Madoc, etc., etc.

"A crust for the critics."—Bayes, in the "Rehearsal."

* And the "waiters" are the only fortunate people who can "fly" from them; all the rest, viz., the sad subscribers to the "Literary Fund," being compelled, by courtesy, to sit out the recitation without a hope of exclaiming, "Sic" (that is, by choking Fitz. with bad wine or worse poetry) "me servavit Apollo!"

† On his table were found these words: "What Cato did, and Addison approved, cannot be wrong." But Addison did not "approve"; and if he had, it would not have mended the matter. He had invited his daughter on the same water-party; but Miss Budgell, by some accident, escaped this last paternal attention. Thus fell the sycophant of "Atticus," and the enemy of Pope.

‡ If "dosed with," etc., be censured as low, I beg leave to refer to the original for something still lower; and if any reader will translate "Minxerit in patrios cineres," etc., into a decent couplet, I will insert said couplet in lieu of the present.

THE CURSE OF MINERVA.*

—"Pallas te hoc vulnere, Pallas
Immolat, et pœnam scelerato ex sanguine sumit."
ÆNEID, lib. xii.

ATHENS: CAPUCHIN CONVENT, March 17, 1811.

Slow sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,
Along Morea's hills the setting sun;
Not, as in northern climes, obscurely bright,
But one unclouded blaze of living light;
O'er the hush'd deep the yellow beam he throws,
Gilds the green wave that trembles as it glows:
On old Ægina's rock and Hydra's isle
The god of gladness sheds his parting smile;
O'er his own regions lingering loves to shine,
Though there his altars are no more divine.
Descending fast, the mountain-shadows kiss
Thy glorious gulf, unconquer'd Salamis!
Their azure arches through the long expanse,
More deeply purpled, meet his mellowing glance, [driven,
And tenderest tints, along their summits
Mark his gay course, and own the hues of heaven,
Till, darkly shaded from the land and deep,
Behind his Delphian rock he sinks to sleep.

On such an eve his palest beam he cast,
When, Athens! here thy wisest look'd his last.
How watch'd thy better sons his farewell ray,
That closed their murder'd sage's † latest day;
Not yet—not yet—Sol pauses on the hill,
The precious hour of parting lingers still;
But sad his light to agonizing eyes,
And dark the mountain's once delightful dyes;
Gloom o'er the lovely land he seem'd to pour,
The land where Phœbus never frown'd before;
But ere he sunk below Cithæron's head,
The cup of woe was quaff'd—the spirit fled;
The soul of him that scorn'd to fear or fly,
Who lived and died as none can live or die.

But, lo! from high Hymettus to the plain,
The queen of night asserts her silent reign:‡
No murky vapor, herald of the storm,
Hides her fair face, or girds her glowing form;
With cornice glimmering as the moonbeams play, [ray;
There the white column greets her grateful
And bright around, with quivering beams
Her emblem sparkles o'er the minaret: [beset,
The groves of olive scatter'd dark and wide,
Where meek Cephisus sheds his scanty tide,
The cypress saddening by the sacred mosque,
The gleaming turret of the gay kiosk,*
And sad and sombre 'mid the holy calm,
Near Theseus' fane, yon solitary palm:
All, tinged with varied hues, arrest the eye;
And dull were his that pass'd them heedless by.

Again the Ægean, heard no more afar,
Lulls his chafed breast from elemental war:
Again his waves in milder tints unfold
Their long expanse of sapphire and of gold,
Mix'd with the shades of many a distant isle,
That frown, where gentler ocean deigns to smile.

As thus, within the walls of Pallas' fane,†
I mark'd the beauties of the land and main,
Alone, and friendless, on the magic shore,
Whose arts and arms but live in poet's lore;
Oft as the matchless dome I turn'd to scan,
Sacred to gods, but not secure from man,
The past return'd, the present seem'd to cease,
And Glory knew no clime beyond her Greece!

Hours roll'd along, and Dian's orb on high
Had gain'd the centre of her softest sky;
And yet unwearied still my footsteps trod
O'er the vain shrine of many a vanish'd god;
But chiefly, Pallas! thine; when Hecate's glare,
Check'd by thy columns, fell more sadly fair
O'er the chill marble, where the startling tread
Thrills the lone heart like echoes from the dead.
Long had I mused, and treasured every trace
The wreck of Greece recorded of her race,
When, lo! a giant form before me strode,
And Pallas hail'd me in her own abode!

Yes, 'twas Minerva's self; but, ah! how changed
Since o'er the Dardan field in arms she ranged!
Not such as erst, by her divine command,
Her form appear'd from Phidias' plastic hand:
Gone were the terrors of her awful brow,
Her idle ægis bore no Gorgon now;
Her helm was dinted, and the broken lance
Seem'd weak and shaftless e'en to mortal glance; [clasp,
The olive branch, which still she deign'd to
Shrunk from her touch and wither'd in her grasp;
And, ah! though still the brightest of the sky,
Celestial tears bedimm'd her large blue eye;
Round the rent casque her owlet circled slow,
And mourn'd his mistress with a shriek of woe!

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* This satire on Lord Elgin for bringing the remains of Grecian art from the Parthenon to England was not published by Lord Byron. He suppressed it, and used the beautiful opening lines for his Corsair. It was published four years after his death, in 1828.

† Socrates drank the hemlock a short time before sunset (the hour of execution), notwithstanding the entreaties of his disciples to wait till the sun went down.

‡ The twilight in Greece is much shorter than in our own country; the days in winter are longer, but in summer of less duration.

* The kiosk is a Turkish summer-house; the palm is without the present walls of Athens, not far from the temple of Theseus, between which and the tree the wall intervenes. Cephisus' stream is indeed scanty, and Ilissus has no stream at all.

† The Parthenon, or Temple of Minerva.

"Mortal!"—'twas thus she spake—"that
blush of shame
Proclaims the Briton, once a noble name:
First of the mighty, foremost of the free,
How honor'd *less* by all, and *least* by me:
Chief of thy foes shall Pallas still be found.
Seek'st thou the cause of loathing?—look
around.
Lo! here, despite of war and wasting fire,
I saw successive tyrannies expire.
I escaped from the ravage of the Turk and Goth,
My country sends a spoiler worse than both.
Survey this vacant, violated fane;
Recount the relics torn that yet remain:
These Cecrops placed, *this* Pericles adorn'd,*
That Adrian rear'd when drooping Science
mourn'd.
What more I owe, let gratitude attest—
How Alaric and Elgin did the rest. [came,
That all may learn from whence the plunderer
The insulted wall sustains his hated name:
For Elgin's fame thus grateful Pallas pleads,
Below, his name—above, behold his deeds!
Be ever hail'd with equal honor here
The Gothic monarch and the Pictish peer:
Arms gave the first his right, the last had none,
But basely stole what less barbarians won.
So when the lion quits his fell repast,
Next prowls the wolf, the filthy jackal last.
Flesh, limbs, and blood the former make their
own,
The last poor brute securely gnaws the bone.
Yet still the gods are just, and crimes are
cross'd:
Be here what Elgin won, and what he lost!
Another name with *his* pollutes my shrine:
Behold where Dian's beams disdain to shine!
Some retribution still might Pallas claim,
Since then Venus half avenged Minerva's shame."†

She ceased awhile, and thus I dared reply,
To soothe the vengeance kindling in her eye:
"Daughter of Jove! in Britain's injured name,
A true-born Briton may the deed disclaim.
Own not on England; England owns him
Athena, no! thy plunderer was a Scot. [not:
Ask'st thou the difference? From fair Phyle's
towers
Survey Bœotia;—Caledonia's ours.
And well I know within that bastard land ‡
Both Wisdom's goddess never held command;
Her barren soil, where Nature's germs, confined
To stern sterility, can stint the mind;
Whose thistle well betrays the niggard earth,
Emblem of all to whom the land gives birth;
Each genial influence nurtured to resist;
A land of meanness, sophistry, and mist. [plain
Each breeze from foggy mount and marshy
Dilutes with drivel every drizzly brain, [flows,
Till, burst at length, each watery head o'er-
Foul as their soil, and frigid as their snows.
Then thousand schemes of petulance and
pride
Despatch her scheming children far and wide:
Some east, some west, some everywhere but
north,
In quest of lawless gain, they issue forth.
And thus—accursed be the day and year!—
She sent a Pict to play the felon here.
Yet Caledonia claims some native worth,
As dull Bœotia gave a Pindar birth.
So may her few, the letter'd and the brave,
Bound to no clime, and victors of the grave,
Shake off the sordid dust of such a land,
And shine like children of a happier strand;
As once of yore in some obnoxious place,
Ten names (if found) had saved a wretched
race."

"Mortal!" the blue-eyed maid resumed,
"once more
Bear back my mandate to thy native shore.
Though fallen, alas, this vengeance yet is mine,
To turn my counsels far from lands like thine.
Hear then in silence Pallas' stern behest;
Hear and believe, for time will tell the rest.

"First on the head of him who did this deed
My curse shall light, on him and all his seed;
Without one spark of intellectual fire,
Be all the sons as senseless as the sire;
If one with wit the parent brood disgrace,
Believe him bastard of a brighter race:
Still! with his hireling artists let him prate,
And Folly's praise repay for Wisdom's hate;
Long of their patron's gusto let them tell,
Whose noblest, *native* gusto is—to sell:
To sell, and make—may Shame record the
The state receiver of his pilfer'd prey. [day!—
Meantime, the flattering, feeble dotard, West,
Europe's worst dauber, and poor Britain's
best,
With palsied hand shall turn each model o'er,
And own himself an infant of fourscore.*
Be all the bruisers cull'd from all St. Giles',
That art and nature may compare their styles;
While brawny brutes in stupid wonder stare,
And marvel at his Lordship's 'stone shop'
there.† [coxcombs creep,
Round the throng'd gates shall sauntering
To lounge and lucubrate, to prate and peep;
While many a languid maid, with longing sigh,
On giant statues casts the curious eye; [skim.
The room with transient glance appears to
Yet marks the mighty back and length of limb;
Mourns o'er the difference of *now* and *then*;

---

* This is spoken of the city in general, and not of the Acropolis in particular. The temple of Jupiter Olympius, by some supposed the Pantheon, was finished by Adrian; sixteen columns are standing, of the most beautiful marble and architecture.

† His Lordship's name, and that of one who no longer wears it, are carved conspicuously on the Parthenon: above, in a part not far distant, are the torn remnants of the basso-relievos, destroyed in a vain attempt to remove them.

‡ "Irish bastards," according to Sir Callaghan O'Braliaghan.

* Mr. West, on seeing the "Elgin Collection" (I suppose we shall hear of the "Abershaw" and "Jack Sheppard" collection), declared himself "a mere tyro" in art.

† Poor Cribb was sadly puzzled when the marbles were first exhibited at Elgin House; he asked if it was not "a stone shop!"—He was right: it is a shop.

Exclaims, 'These Greeks were indeed proper men!'
Draws slight comparisons of *these* with *those*,
And envies Laïs all her Attic beaux. [these?
When shall a modern maid have swains like
Alas, Sir Harry is no Hercules!
And last of all amidst the gaping crew,
Some calm spectator, as he takes his view,
In silent indignation mix'd with grief,
Admires the plunder, but abhors the thief.
Oh, loath'd in life, nor pardon'd in the dust,
May hate pursue his sacrilegious lust!
Link'd with the fool that fired the Ephesian dome,
Shall vengeance follow far beyond the tomb,
And Eratostratos* and Elgin shine,
In many a branding page and burning line;
Alike reserved for aye to stand accursed,
Perchance the second blacker than the first.

"So let him stand through ages yet unborn,
Fix'd statue on the pedestal of Scorn;
Though not for him alone revenge shall wait,
But fits thy country for her coming fate.
Hers were the deeds that taught her lawless son
To do what oft Britannia's self had done.
Look to the Baltic—blazing from afar,
Your old ally yet mourns perfidious war,
Not to such deeds did Pallas lend her aid,
Or break the compact which herself had made;
Far from such counsels, from the faithless field
She fled—but left behind her Gorgon shield;
A fatal gift that turned your friends to stone,
And left lost Albion hated and alone.

"Look to the East, where Ganges' swarthy race
Shall shake your tyrant empire to its base;
Lo! there Rebellion rears her ghastly head,
And glares the Nemesis of native dead;
Till Indus rolls a deep purpureal flood,
And claims his long arrear of Northern blood.
So may ye perish!—Pallas, when she gave
Your free-born rights, forbade ye to enslave.

"Look on your Spain!—she clasps the hand she hates, [gates.
But boldly clasps, and thrusts you from her
Bear witness, bright Barossa! thou canst tell
Whose were the sons that bravely fought and
But Lusitania, kind and dear ally, [fell.
Can spare a few to fight, and sometimes fly.
Oh, glorious field! by Famine fiercely won,
The Gaul retires for once, and all is done!
But when did Pallas teach, that one retreat
Retrieved three long Olympiads of defeat?

"Look last at home—you love not to look there,
On the grim smile of comfortless despair:
Your city saddens: loud though Revel howls,
Here Famine faints, and yonder Rapine
See all alike of more or less bereft; [prowls.
No misers tremble when there's nothing left.
'Blest paper credit,'* who shall dare to sing?
It clogs like lead Corruption's weary wing.
Yet Pallas pluck'd each premier by the ear,
Who gods and men alike disdain'd to hear;
But one, repentant o'er a bankrupt state,
On Pallas calls,—but calls, alas! too late:
Then raves for * * *; to that Mentor bends,
Though he and Pallas never yet were friends.
Him senates hear, whom never yet they heard,
Contemptuous once, and now no less absurd.
So, once of yore, each reasonable frog
Swore faith and fealty to his sovereign 'log.'
Thus hail'd your rulers their patrician clod,
As Egypt chose an onion for a god.

"Now fare ye well! enjoy your little hour:
Go, grasp the shadow of your vanish'd power;
Gloss o'er the failure of each fondest scheme;
Your strength a name, your bloated wealth a dream.
Gone is that gold, the marvel of mankind,
And pirates barter all that's left behind.†
No more the hirelings, purchased near and far,
Crowd to the ranks of mercenary war;
The idle merchant on the useless quay
Droops o'er the bales no bark may bear away;
Or, back returning, sees rejected stores
Rot piecemeal on his own encumber'd shores:
The starved mechanic breaks his rusting loom,
And desperate mans him 'gainst the coming doom.
Then in the senate of your sinking state
Show me the man whose counsels may have weight.
Vain is each voice where tones could once command;
E'en factions cease to charm a factious land:
Yet jarring sects convulse a sister isle, [pile.
And light with maddening hands the mutual

"'Tis done, 'tis past, since Pallas warns in vain;
The Furies seize her abdicated reign:
Wide o'er the realm they wave their kindling brands,
And wring her vitals with their fiery hands.
But one convulsive struggle still remains,
And Gaul shall weep ere Albion wear her chains.
The banner'd pomp of war, the glittering files,
O'er whose gay trappings stern Bellona smiles:
The brazen trump, the spirit-stirring drum,
That bid the foe defiance ere they come;
The hero bounding at his country's call,
The glorious death that consecrates his fall,
Swell the young heart with visionary charms,
And bid it antedate the joy of arms.
But know, a lesson you may yet be taught,
With death alone are laurels cheaply bought:
Not in the conflict Havoc seeks delight,
His day of mercy is the day of fight.
But when the field is fought, the battle won,

* Eratostratos, who, in order to make his name remembered, set fire to the Temple of Diana at Ephesus.

* "Blest paper credit! last and best supply,
That lends Corruption lighter wings to fly."
POPE.

† The Deal and Dover traffickers in specie.

Though drench'd with gore, his woes are but begun :
His deeper deeds as yet ye know by name ;
The slaughter'd peasant and the ravish'd dame,
The rifled mansion and the foe-reap'd field,
All suit with souls at home, untaught to yield.
Say with what eye along the distant down
Would flying burghers mark the blazing town!
How view the column of ascending flames
Shake his red shadow o'er the startled Thames?
Nay, frown not, Albion! for the torch was thine
That lit such pyres from Tagus to the Rhine :
Now should they burst on thy devoted coast,
Go, ask thy bosom who deserves them most.
The law of heaven and earth is life for life,
And she who raised, in vain regrets, the strife."

THE WALTZ.

AN APOSTROPHIC HYMN.

1813.

"Qualis in Eurotæ ripis, aut per juga Cynthi,
Exercet Diana choros." VIRGIL.

"Such on Eurotas' banks, or Cynthia's height,
Diana seems : and so she charms the sight,
When in the dance the graceful goddess leads
The quire of nymphs, and overtops their heads."
—DRYDEN'S "Virgil."

TO THE PUBLISHER.

SIR,—I am a country gentleman of a midland county. I might have been a Parliament man for a certain borough ; having had the offer of as many votes as General T. at the general election in 1812.* But I was all for domestic happiness ; as, fifteen years ago, on a visit to London, I married a middle-aged maid of honor. We lived happily at Hornem Hall till last season, when my wife and I were invited by the Countess of Waltzaway (a distant relation of my spouse) to pass the winter in town. Thinking no harm, and our girls being come to a marriageable (or, as they call it, marketable) age, and having besides a Chancery suit inveterately entailed upon the family estate, we came up in our old chariot ; of which, by the by, my wife grew so much ashamed in less than a week, that I was obliged to buy a second hand barouche, of which I might mount the box, Mrs. H. says, if I could drive, but never see the inside that place being reserved for the Honorable Augustus Tiptoe, her partner-general and opera-knight. Hearing great praises of Mrs. H's. dancing (she was famous for birthnight minuets in the latter end of the last century), I unbooted, and went to a ball at the Countess's, expecting to see a country dance, or, at most, cotillons, reels, and all the old paces to the newest tunes. But judge of my surprise, on arriving, to see poor dear Mrs. Hornem with her arms half round the loins of a huge hussar-looking gentleman I never set eyes on before ; and his, to say truth, rather more than half round her waist, turning round, and round, and round, to a d—d see-saw up-and down sort of tune, that reminded me of the "Black Joke," only more "affettuoso," till it made me quite giddy with wondering they were not so. By and by they stopped a bit, and I thought they would sit or fall down. But no ; with Mrs. H.'s hand on his shoulder, "quam familiariter"† (as Terence said when I was at school), they walked about a minute, and then at it again, like two cockchafers spitted upon the same bodkin. I asked what all this meant, when, with a loud laugh, a child so older than our Wilhelmina (a name I never heard but in the "Vicar of Wakefield," though her mother would call her after the Princess of Swappenbach) said, "Lord! Mr. Hornem, can't you see they are waltzing!" or waltzing (I forget which) ; and then up she got, and her mother and sister, and away they went, and roundabouted it till supper-time. Now that I know what it is, I like it of all things, and so does Mrs. H. (though I have broken my shins, and four times overturned Mrs. Hornem's maid, in practising the preliminary steps, in a morning). Indeed, so much do I like it, that having a turn for rhyme, tastily displayed in some election ballads, and songs in honor of all the victories (but till lately I have had little practice in that way), I sat down, and with the aid of William Fitzgerald, Esq., and a few hints from Dr. Busby (whose recitations I attend, and am monstrous fond of Master Busby's manner of delivering his father's late successful "Drury Lane Address"), I composed the following hymn, wherewithal to make my sentiments known to the public ; whom, nevertheless, I heartily despise, as well as the critics.—I am, Sir, yours, etc., etc.,

HORACE HORNEM.

*State of the poll (last day), 5.

† My Latin is all forgotten, if a man can be said to have forgotten what he never remembered ; but I bought my title-page motto of a Catholic priest for a three-shilling bank token, after much haggling for the even sixpence. I grudged the money to a Papist, being all for the memory of Perceval and "No Popery," and quite regretting the downfall of the Pope, because we can't burn him any more.

MUSE of the many-twinkling feet!* whose charms
Are now extended up from legs to arms ;
Terpsichore!—too long misdeem'd a maid—
Reproachful term bestow'd but to upbraid—
Henceforth in all the bronze of brightness shine,
The least a vestal of the virgin Nine.
Far be from thee and thine the name of prude ;
Mock'd, yet triumphant ; sneer'd at, unsubdued ;
Thy legs must move to conquer as they fly,
If but thy coats are reasonably high ;
Thy breast, if bare enough, requires no shield :
Dance forth—*sans armour* thou shalt take the field,
And down—impregnable to *most* assaults,
Thy not too lawfully begotten "Waltz."

Hail, nimble nymph! to whom the young hussar,
The whisker'd votary of waltz and war,
His night devotes, despite of spurs and boots ;
A sight unmatch'd since Orpheus and his brutes : [banners
Hail, spirit-stirring Waltz! beneath whose
A modern hero fought for modish manners ;

* "Glance their many-twinkling feet."—GRAY.

On Hounslow's heath to rival Wellesley's fame,* [his aim :
Cock'd, fired, and miss'd his man—but gain'd
Hail, moving muse ! to whom the fair one's breast
Gives all it can, and bids us take the rest.
Oh, for the flow of Busby or of Fitz,
The latter's loyalty, the former's wits,
To "energize the object I pursue,"
And give both Belial and his dance their due !

Imperial Waltz ! imported from the Rhine
(Famed for the growth of pedigree and wine),
Long be thine import from all duty free,
And hock itself be less esteem'd than thee ;
In some few qualities alike—for hock
Improves our cellar—*thou* our living stock.
The head to hock belongs—thy subtler art
Intoxicates alone the heedless heart :
Through the full veins thy gentler poison swims,
And wakes to wantonness the willing limbs.

O Germany ! how much to thee we owe,
As heaven-born Pitt can testify below,
Ere cursed confederation made thee France's,
And only left us thy d—d debts and dances !
Of subsidies and Hanover bereft, [left !
We bless thee still—for George the Third is
Of kings the best, and last not least in worth,
For graciously begetting George the Fourth.
To Germany, and highnesses serene, [queen ?
Who owe us millions—don't we owe the
To Germany, what owe we not besides ?
So oft bestowing Brunswickers and brides :
Who paid for vulgar, with her royal blood,
Drawn from the stem of each Teutonic stud ;
Who sent us—so be pardon'd all our faults—
A dozen dukes, some kings, a queen—and Waltz.

But peace to her, her emperor and diet,
Though now transferr'd to Bonaparte's "fiat!"
Back to thy theme—O Muse of motion ! say,
How first to Albion found thy Waltz her way ?

Borne on thy breath of hyperborean gales
From Hamburg's port (while Hamburg yet had *mails*),
Ere yet unlucky Fame, compelled to creep
To snowy Gottenburg, was chill'd to sleep ;
Or, starting from her slumbers, deign'd arise,
Heligoland, to stock thy mart with lies ;
While unburnt Moscow yet had news to send,*
Nor owed her fiery exit to a friend, [sets
She came—Waltz came—and with her certain
Of true despatches, and as true gazettes :
Then flamed of Austerlitz the blest despatch,
Which *Moniteur* nor *Morning Post* can match ;
And, almost crush'd beneath the glorious news,
Ten plays, and forty tales of Kotzebue's ;
One envoy's letters, six composers' airs, [fairs :
And loads from Frankfort and from Leipsic
Meiner's four volumes upon womankind,
Like Lapland witches to ensure a wind ; [it,
Brunck's heaviest tome for ballast, and, to back
Of Heynè, such as should not sink the packet.

Fraught with this cargo, and her fairest freight,
Delightful Waltz, on tiptoe for a mate,
The welcome vessel reach'd the genial strand,
And round her flock'd the daughters of the land.
Not decent David, when, before the ark,
His grand *pas-seul* excited some remark,
Not love-lorn Quixote, when his Sancho thought
The knight's fandango friskier than it ought ;
Not soft Herodias, when, with winning tread,
Her nimble feet danced off another's head ;
Not Cleopatra on her galley's deck,
Display'd so much of *leg*, or more of *neck*,
Than thou ambrosial Waltz, when first the
Beheld thee twirling to a Saxon tune ! [moon

To you, ye husbands of ten years whose brows
Ache with the annual tributes of a spouse ;

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* To rival Lord Wellesley's, or his nephew's, as the reader pleases. The one gained a pretty woman, whom he deserved, by fighting for ; and the other has been fighting in the Peninsula many a long day, "by Shrewsbury clock," without gaining anything in that country but the title of "the great Lord," and "the Lord" ; which savors of profanation, having been hitherto applied only to that Being to whom "Te Deums" for carnage is the rankest blasphemy. It is to be presumed that the general will one day return to his Sabine farm, there

"To tame the genius of the stubborn plain,
Almost as quickly as he conquer'd Spain !"

The Lord Peterborough conquered continents in a summer ; we do more ; we contrive both to conquer and lose them in a shorter season. If "the great Lord's" Cincinnatian progress in agriculture be no speedier than the proportional average of time in Pope's couplet, it will, according to the farmer's proverb, be "ploughing with dogs."

By-the-by, one of this illustrious person's new titles is forgotten ; it is, however, worth remembering—"Salvador del mundo !" credite, posteri ! If this be the appellation annexed by the inhabitants of the Peninsula to the name of a man who has not yet saved them—(query, are they worth saving, even in this world ? for according to the mildest modifications of any Christian creed, those three words make the odds much against them in the next). "Saviour of the world," quotha—it were to be wished that he, or any one else, could save a corner of it—his country. Yet this stupid misnomer, although it shows the near connection between superstition and impiety, so far has its use, that it proves there can be little to dread from those Catholics (inquisitorial Catholics too) who can confer such an appellation on a Protestant. I suppose next year he will be entitled the "Virgin Mary" ; if so, Lord George Gordon himself would have nothing to object to such liberal bastards of our Lady of Babylon.

* The patriotic arson of our amiable allies cannot be sufficiently commended—nor subscribed for. Amongst other details omitted in the various despatches of our eloquent ambassador, he did not state (being too much occupied with the exploits of Colonel C——, in swimming rivers frozen, and galloping over roads impassable) that one entire province perished by famine in the most melancholy manner as follows :—In General Kostopchin's consummate conflagration, the consumption of tallow and train oil was so great, that the market was inadequate to the demand : and thus one hundred and thirty-three thousand persons were starved to death by being reduced to wholesome diet ! The lamplighters of London have since subscribed a pint (of oil) apiece, and the tallow-chandlers have unanimously voted a quantity of best moulds (four to the pound), to the relief of the surviving Scythians,—the scarcity will soon, by such exertions, and a proper attention to the quality rather than the quantity of provision, be totally alleviated. It is said, in return, that the untouched Ukraine has subscribed sixty thousand beeves for a day's meal to our suffering manufacturers.

you of nine years less, who only bear
he budding sprouts of those that you *shall* wear,
ith added ornaments around them roll'd
native brass, or law-awarded gold :
you, ye matrons, ever on the watch
mar a son's, or make a daughter's match ;
you, ye children of—whom chance accords—
ways the ladies, and *sometimes* their lords ;
ye, ye single gentlemen, who seek
rnments for life, or pleasures for a week ;
Love or Hymen your endeavors guide,
gain your own, or snatch another's bride;—
one and all the lovely stranger came,
d every ball-room echoes with her name.

Endearing Waltz ! to thy more melting tune
w Irish jig and ancient rigadoon. [forego
otch reels, avaunt ! and country dance
ur future claims to each fantastic toe !
altz, Waltz alone, both legs and arms demands,
beral of feet, and lavish of her hands ;
ands which may freely range in public sight
here ne'er before—but—pray "put out the light."
methinks the glare of yonder chandelier
ines much too far, or I am much too near;
nd true, though strange, Waltz whispers this remark,
"My slippery steps are safest in the dark !"
t here the Muse with due decorum halts,
nd lends her longest petticoat to Waltz.

Observant travellers of every time !
e quartos publish'd upon every clime !
h, say, shall dull Romaika's heavy round,
andango's wriggle, or Bolero's bound ;
n Egypt's Almas*—fantalizing group—
olumbia's caperers to the warlike whoop—
n aught from cold Kamschatka to Cape Horn [borne?
ith Waltz compare, or after Waltz be
h, no ! from Morier's pages down to Galt's,
ach tourist pens a paragraph for "Waltz."

Shades of those belles whose reign began of yore, [before !—
ith George the Third's—and ended long
hough in your daughters' daughters yet you thrive, [alive !
urst from your lead, and be yourselves
ack to the ball-room speed your spectred host ;
ools' Paradise is dull to that you lost.
o treacherous powder bids conjecture quake;
o stiff-starch'd stays make meddling fingers ache [ape
ransferr'd to those ambiguous things that
oats in their visage, women in their shape);†

No damsel faints when rather closely press'd,
But more caressing seems when most caress'd;
Superfluous hartshorn and reviving salt ;
Both banish'd by the sovereign cordial, "Waltz."

Seductive Waltz !—though on thy native shore
Even Werter's self proclaim'd thee half a whore ;
Werter—to decent vice though much inclined,
Yet warm, not wanton ; dazzled, but not blind—
Though gentle Genlis, in her strife with Stael,
Would even proscribe thee from a Paris ball ;
The fashion hails—from countesses to queens,
And maids and valets waltz behind the scenes;
Wide and more wide thy witching circle spreads,
And turns—if nothing else—at least our *heads;*
With thee even clumsy cits attempt to bounce,
And cockneys practise what they can't pronounce.
Gods! how the glorious theme my strain exalts.
And rhyme finds partner rhyme in praise of "Waltz !"

Blest was the time Waltz chose for her *début:* [new,*
The court, the Regent, like herself, were
New face for friends, for foes some new rewards ;
New ornaments for black and royal guards ;
New laws to hang the rogues that roar'd for bread ;
New coins (most new) to follow those that fled;
New victories—nor can we prize them less,
Though Jenky† wonders at his own success ;
New wars, because the old succeed so well,
That most survivors envy those who fell ;
New mistresses—no, old—and yet 'tis true,
Though they be *old*, the *thing* is something new ;

* Dancing girls.

† It cannot be complained now, as in the Lady Baussiere's time, of the "Sieur de la Croix," that there be no whiskers"; but how far these are indications of valor in the field, or elsewhere, may still be questionable. Much may be, and hath been, avouched on both sides. In the olden time philosophers had whiskers, and soldiers none—Scipio himself was shaven—Hannibal thought his one eye handsome enough without a beard : but Adrian, the emperor, wore a beard (having warts on his chin, which neither the Empress Sabina nor even the courtiers could abide)—Turenne had whiskers, Marlborough none—Buonaparte is unwhiskered, the Regent whiskered ; "argal" greatness of mind and whiskers may or may not go together ; but certainly the different occurrences, since the growth of the last mentioned, go further in behalf of whiskers than the anathema of Anselm did against long hair in the reign of Henry I.—Formerly red was a favorite color. See Lodowick Barrey's comedy of Ram Alley, 1661 ; Act I, Scene I.

"Taffeta. Now for a wager—What colored beard comes next by the window !

"Adriana. A black man's, I think.

"Taffeta. I think not so : I think a red, for that is most in fashion."

There is "nothing new under the sun"; but red, then a favorite, has now subsided into a favorite's color.

* An anachronism—Waltz and the battle of Austerlitz are before said to have opened the ball together ; the bard means (if he means anything) Waltz was not so much in vogue till the Regent attained the acme of his popularity. Waltz, the comet, whiskers, and the new government, illuminated heaven and earth, in all their glory, much about the same time : of these the comet only has disappeared ; the other three continue to astonish us still.—Printer's Devil.

† Jenkinson.

Each new, quite new—(except some ancient tricks),*
New white-sticks, gold-sticks, broom-sticks, all new sticks!
With vests or ribbons, deck'd alike in hue,
New troopers strut, new turncoats blush in blue;
So saith the muse! my ——, what say you?†
Such was the time when Waltz might best maintain
Her new preferments in this novel reign;
Such was the time, nor ever yet was such:
Hoops are *no more*, and petticoats *not much;*
Morals and minuets, virtue and her stays,
And tell-tale powder—all have had their days.
The ball begins—the honors of the house
First duly done by daughter or by spouse,
Some potentate—or royal or serene—
With Kent's gay grace, or sapient Glo'ster's mien, [flush
Leads forth the ready dame, whose rising
Might once have been mistaken for a blush,
From where the garb just leaves the bosom free, [to be:‡
That spot where hearts were once supposed
Round all the confines of the yielded waist,
The stranger's hand may wander undisplaced;
The lady's in return may grasp as much
As princely paunches offer to her touch.
Pleased round the chalky floor how well they trip,
One hand reposing on the royal hip;
The other to the shoulder no less royal
Ascending with affection truly loyal!
Thus front to front the partners move or stand,
The foot may rest, but none withdraw the hand;
And all in turn may follow in their rank,
The Earl of—Asterisk—and Lady—Blank;
Sir—Such-a-one—with those of fashion's host,
For whose blest surnames—*vide Morning Post*
(Or if for that impartial print too late,
Search Doctors' Commons six months from my date)—
Thus all and each, in movement swift or slow,
The genial contact gently undergo;
Till some might marvel, with the modest Turk,
If "nothing follows all this palming work."*
True, honest Mirza!—you may trust my rhyme—
Something does follow at a fitter time;
The breast thus publicly resign'd to man
In private may resist him—if it can.

O ye who loved our grandmothers of yore,
Fitzpatrick, Sheridan, and many more!
And thou, my prince! whose sovereign taste and will
It is to love the lovely beldames still! [sprite
Thou ghost of Queensbury! whose judging
Satan may spare to peep a single night,
Pronounce—if ever in your days of bliss
Asmodeus struck so bright a stroke as this;
To teach the young ideas how to rise,
Flush in the cheek, and languish in the eyes;
Rush to the heart, and lighten through the frame,
With half-told wish and ill-dissembled flame;
For prurient nature still will storm the breast—
Who, tempted thus, can answer for the rest?

But ye—who never felt a single thought,
For what our morals are to be, or ought;
Who wisely wish the charms you view to reap,
Say—would you make those beauties quite so cheap?
Hot from the hands promiscuously applied,
Round the slight waist, or down the glowing side,
Where were the rapture then to clasp the form
From this lewd grasp and lawless contact warm?
At once love's most endearing thought resign,
To press the hand so press'd by none but thine;
To gaze upon that eye which never met
Another's ardent look without regret;
Approach the lip which all, without restraint,
Come near enough—if not to touch—to taint;
If such thou lovest—love her then no more,
Or give—like her—caresses to a score;
Her mind with these is gone, and with it go
The little left behind it to bestow.

Voluptuous Waltz! and dare I thus blaspheme?
Thy bard forgot thy praises were his theme.
Terpsichore, forgive!—at every ball
My wife *now* waltzes—and my daughters *shall;*
My son—(or stop—'tis needless to inquire—
These little accidents should ne'er transpire;
Some ages hence our genealogic tree
Will wear as green a bough for him as me)—
Waltzing shall rear, to make our name amends,
Grandsons for me—in heirs to all his friends.

---

* "Oh that right should thus overcome might!" Who does not remember the "delicate investigation" in the "Merry Wives of Windsor"?—
"Ford. Pray you, come near; if I suspect without cause, why then make sport at me; then let me be your jest; I deserve it. How now? whither bear you this?
"Mrs. Ford. What have you to do whither they bear it?—you were best meddle with buck-washing."

† The gentle, or ferocious, reader may fill up the blank as he pleases—there are several dissyllabic names at his service (being already in the Regent's); it would not be fair to back any peculiar initial against the alphabet, as every month will add to the list now entered for the sweepstakes;—a distinguished consonant is said to be the favorite, much against the wishes of the knowing ones.

‡ "We have changed all that," says the Mock Doctor; 'tis all gone: Asmodeus knows where. After all, it is of no great importance how women's hearts are disposed of; they have Nature's privilege to distribute them as absurdly as possible. But there are also some men with hearts so thoroughly bad, as to remind us of those phenomena often mentioned in natural history, viz.: a mass of solid stone—only to be opened by force—and when divided, you find a toad in the centre, lively, and with the reputation of being venomous.

* In Turkey a pertinent, here an impertinent and superfluous, question—literally put, as in the text, by a Persian to Morier, on seeing a waltz in Pera.—Vide Morier's Travels.

THE VISION OF JUDGMENT.

BY QUEVEDO REDIVIVUS.

SUGGESTED BY THE COMPOSITION SO ENTITLED BY THE AUTHOR OF "WAT TYLER." PUBLISHED IN THE "LIBERAL." 1822.

"A Daniel come to judgment! yea, a Daniel!
I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word."

PREFACE.

It hath been wisely said, that "One fool makes many"; and it hath been poetically observed –

"That fools rush in where angels fear to tread."—POPE.

If Mr. Southey had not rushed in where he had no business, and where he never was before, and never will be again, the following poem would not have been written. It is not impossible that it may be as good as his own, saving that it cannot, by any species of stupidity, natural or acquired, be worse. The gross flattery, the dull impudence, the renegado intolerance, and impious cant, of the poem by the author of "Wat Tyler," are something so stupendous as to form the sublime of himself—containing the quintessence of his own attributes.

So much for his poem—a word on his preface. In this preface it has pleased the magnanimous Laureate to draw the picture of a supposed "Satanic School," the which he doth recommend to the notice of the Legislature; thereby adding to his other laurels the ambition of those of an informer. If there exists anywhere, except in his imagination, such a school, is he not sufficiently armed against it by his own intense vanity? The truth is, that there are certain writers whom Mr. S. imagines, like Scrub, to have "talked of him; for they laughed confoundedly."]

I think I know enough of most of the writers to whom he is supposed to allude, to assert, that they, in their individual capacities, have done more good, in the charities of life, to their fellow-creatures in any one year, than Mr. Southey has done harm to himself by his absurdities in his whole life; and this is saying a great deal. But I have a few questions to ask.

1stly, Is Mr. Southey the author of "Wat Tyler"?

2ndly, Was he not refused a remedy at law by the highest judge of his beloved England, because it was a blasphemous and seditious publication?

3rdly, Was he not entitled by William Smith, in full Parliament, "a rancorous renegado"?

4thly, Is he not Poet Laureate, with his own lines on Martin the regicide staring him in the face?

And 5thly, Putting the four preceding items together, with what conscience dare he call the attention of the laws to the publications of others, be they as they may?

I say nothing of the cowardice of such a proceeding; its meanness speaks for itself; but I wish to touch upon the motive, which is neither more nor less than that Mr. S. has been laughed at a little in some recent publications, as he was of yore in the "Anti Jacobin" by his present patrons. Hence all this "skimble scamble stuff" about "Satanic," and so forth. However, it is worthy of him—"qualis ab incepto."

If there is anything obnoxious to the political opinions of a portion of the public in the following poem, they may thank Mr. Southey. He might have written hexameters, as he has written everything else, for aught that the writer cared—had they been upon another subject. But to attempt to canonize a monarch who, whatever were his household virtues, was neither a successful nor a patriot king,—inasmuch as several years of his reign passed in war with America and Ireland, to say nothing of the aggression upon France,—like all other exaggeration, necessarily begets opposition. In whatever manner he may be spoken of in this new Vision, his public character will not be more favorably transmitted by history. Of his private virtues (although a little expensive to the nation) there can be no doubt.

With regard to the supernatural personages treated of, I can only say that I know as much about them, and as an honest man) have a better right to talk of them than Robert Southey. I have also treated them more seriously. The way in which that poor insane creature, the Laureate, deals about his judgments in the next world, is like his own judgments in this. If it was not completely ludicrous, it would be something worse. I don't think that there is much more to say at present.

QUEVEDO REDIVIVUS.

P.S.—It is possible that some readers may object, in these objectionable times, to the freedom with which saints, angels, and spiritual persons discourse in this Vision. But, for precedents upon such points, I must refer them to Fielding's "Journey from this World to the next," and to the Visions of myself, the said Quevedo, in English or translated. The reader is also requested to observe that no doctrinal tenets are insisted upon or discussed; that the person of the Deity is carefully withheld from sight, which is more than can be said for the Laureate, who hath thought proper to make Him talk, not "like a school divine," but like the unscholar-like Mr. Southey. The whole action passes on the outside of heaven; and Chaucer's "Wife of Bath," Pulci's "Morgante Maggiore," Swift's "Tale of a Tub," and the other works above referred to, are cases in point of the freedom with which saints, etc., may be permitted to converse in works not intended to be serious.—Q. R.

*** Mr. Southey being, as he says, a good Christian and vindictive, threatens, I understand, a reply to this my answer. It is to be hoped that his visionary faculties will in the meantime have acquired a little more judgment, properly so-called: otherwise he will get himself into new dilemmas. These apostate Jacobins furnish rich sojourners. Let him take a specimen. Mr. Southey laudeth grievously "one Mr. Landor," who cultivates much private renown in the shape of Latin verses; and not long ago, the Poet Laureate dedicated to him, it appeareth, one of his fugitive lyrics upon the strength of a poem called "Gebir." Who could suppose that in this same Gebir the aforesaid Savage Landor (for such is his grim cognomen) putteth into the infernal regions no less a person than the hero of his friend Mr. Southey's heaven, –yea, even George the Third! See also how personal Savage sometimeth, when he hath a mind. The following is his portrait of our late gracious sovereign:

(Prince Gebir having descended into the infernal regions, the shades of his royal ancestors are, at his request, filled up to his view; and he exclaims to his ghostly guide)—

"Aroar, what wretch that nearest us? what wretch
Is that with eyebrows white and slanting brow?
Listen—him yonder who, bound down supine,
Shrinks yelling from that sword there, engine-hung.
He too amongst my ancestors. I hate
The despot, but the dastard I despise.
Was he our countryman?"

"Alas, O king!
Iberia bore him, but the breed accurst
Inclement winds blue blighting from north-east."
"He was a warrior; then, nor fear'd the gods?"

"Gebir, he feared the demons, not the gods,
Though them indeed his daily face adored:
And was no warrior, yet the thousand lives
Squandered, as stones to exercise a sling,
And the fame cruelty and cold caprice—
Oh, madness of mankind! address'd, adored!"—
"Gebir," p. 28.

I omit noticing some edifying Ithyphallics of Savagius, wishing to keep the proper veil over them, if his grave but somewhat indiscreet worshipper will suffer it; but certainly these teachers of "great moral lessons," are apt to be found in strange company.

I.

Saint Peter sat by the celestial gate;
His keys were rusty, and the lock was dull,
So little trouble had been given of late:
Not that the place by any means was full,
But since the Gallic era "eighty-eight,"
The devils had ta'en a longer, stronger pull,
And "a pull all together," as they say
At sea—which drew most souls another way.

II.

The angels all were singing out of tune,
And hoarse with having little else to do,
Excepting to wind up the sun and moon,
Or curb a runaway young star or two,
Or wild colt of a comet, which too soon
Broke out of bounds o'er the ethereal blue,
Splitting some planet with its playful tail,
As boats are sometimes by a wanton whale.

III.

The guardian seraphs had retired on high,
Finding their charges past all care below;
Terrestrial business fill'd nought in the sky
Save the recording angel's black bureau;
Who found, indeed, the facts to multiply
With such rapidity of vice and woe,
That he had stripp'd off both his wings in quills,
And yet was in arrear of human ills.

IV.

His business so augmented of late years,
That he was forced, against his will no doubt
(Just like those cherubs, earthly ministers),
For some resource to turn himself about,
And claim the help of his celestial peers,
To aid him ere he should be quite worn out
By the increased demand for his remarks:
Six angels and twelve saints were named his clerks.

V.

This was a handsome board—at least for heaven;
And yet they had even then enough to do,
So many conquerors' cars were daily driven,
So many kingdoms fitted up anew;
Each day, too, slew its thousands six or seven,
Till at the crowning carnage, Waterloo,
They threw their pens down in divine disgust,
The page was so besmear'd with blood and dust.

VI.

This by the way; 'tis not mine to record
What angels shrink from: even the very devil
On this occasion his own work abhorr'd,
So surfeited with the infernal revel:
Though he himself had sharpen'd every sword,
It almost quench'd his innate thirst of evil.
(Here Satan's sole good work deserves insertion—
'Tis, that he has both generals in reversion.)

VII.

Let's skip a few short years of hollow peace,
Which peopled earth no better, hell as wont,
And heaven none—they form the tyrant's lease,
With nothing but new names subscribed upon't:
'Twill one day finish: meantime they increase,
"With seven heads and ten horns," and all in front,
Like Saint John's foretold beast; but ours are born
Less formidable in the head than horn.

VIII.

In the first year of freedom's second dawn
Died George the Third; although no tyrant, one
Who shielded tyrants, till each sense withdrawn
Left him nor mental nor external sun:
A better farmer ne'er brush'd dew from lawn,
A worse king never left a realm undone!
He died—but left his subjects still behind,
One half as mad—and t'other no less blind.

IX.

He died! his death made no great stir on earth:
His burial made some pomp; there was no profusion
Of velvet, gilding, brass, and no great dearth
Of aught but tears—save those shed by collusion.
For these things may be bought at their true worth;
Of elegy there was the due infusion—
Bought also; and the torches, cloaks, and banners,
Heralds, and relics of old Gothic manners,

X.

Form'd a sepulchral melodrame. Of all
The fools who flock'd to swell or see the show,
Who cared about the corpse? The funeral
Made the attraction, and the black the woe.
There throbb'd not there a thought which pierced the pall;
And when the gorgeous coffin was laid low,
It seem'd the mockery of hell to fold
The rottenness of eighty years in gold.

XI.

So mix his body with the dust! It might
Return to what it *must* far sooner, were
The natural compound left alone to fight

ts way back into earth, and fire, and air ;
It the unnatural balsams merely blight
What nature made him at his birth, as bare
the mere million's base unmummied clay—
all his spices but prolong decay.

XII.

's dead—and upper earth with him has done ;
He's buried ; save the undertaker's bill,
lapidary's scrawl, the world has gone
'or him, unless he left a German will.
t where's the proctor who will ask his son?
n whom his qualities are reigning still,
cept that household virtue, most uncom-
constancy to a bad, ugly woman. [mon,

XIII.

God save the King!" It is a large economy
n God to save the like ; but if He will
saving, all the better ; for not one am I
Of those who think damnation better still ;
ardly know, too, if not quite alone am I
n this small hope of bettering future ill
circumscribing, with some slight restric-
e eternity of hell's hot jurisdiction. [tion,

XIV.

now this is unpopular ; I know [damn'd
'Tis blasphemous ; I know one may be
r hoping no one else may e'er be so ;
know my catechism; I know we're cramm'd
th the best doctrines till we quite o'erflow;
know that all save England's church have
shamm'd ;
d that the other twice two hundred churches
l synagogues have made a *damn'd* bad
purchase.

XV.

l help us all! God help me too! I am,
God knows, as helpless as the devil can wish,
d not a whit more difficult to damn,
Than is to bring to land a late-hook'd fish,
to the butcher to purvey the lamb ;
Not that I'm fit for such a noble dish,
one day will be that immortal fry
almost everybody born to die.

XVI.

nt Peter sat by the celestial gate, [came
nd nodded o'er his keys ; when lo! there
ondrous noise he had not heard of late—
rushing sound of wind, and stream, and
flame ;
short, a roar of things extremely great,
Which would have made all save a saint
exclaim ;
t he, with first a start and then a wink,
d, "There's another star gone out, I
think!"

XVII.

t ere he could return to his repose, [eyes—
cherub flapp'd his right wing o'er his
which Saint Peter yawn'd and rubb'd his
nose ; [rise!"
Saint porter," said the angel, "prithee

Waving a goodly wing, which glow'd, as glows
An earthly peacock's tail, with heavenly
dyes ; [the matter?
To which the Saint replied, "Well, what's
Is Lucifer come back with all this clatter?"

XVIII.

"No," quoth the cherub ; "George the Third
is dead." [the apostle ;
"And who *is* George the Third?" replied
"*What George? What Third?*" "The King
of England," said [to jostle
The angel. "Well! he won't find kings
Him on his way; but does he wear his head?
Because the last we saw here had a tussle,
And ne'er would have got into heaven's good
graces,
Had he not flung his head in all our faces.

XIX.

"He was, if I remember, king of France ;
That head of his, which could not keep a
crown
On earth, yet ventured in my face to advance
A claim to those of martyrs—like my own.
If I had had my sword, as I had once
When I cut ears off, I had cut him down ;
But having but my *keys*, and not my brand,
I only knock'd his head from out his hand.

XX.

"And then he set up such a headless howl,
That all the saints came out and took him in;
And there he sits by St. Paul, cheek by jowl ;
That fellow Paul—the parvenu! The skin
Of Saint Bartholomew, which makes his cowl
In heaven, and upon earth redeem'd his sin,
So as to make a martyr, never sped
Better than did that weak and wooden head.

XXI.

"But had it come up here upon its shoulders,
There would have been a different tale to
tell ;
The fellow-feeling in the saints beholders
Seems to have acted on them like a spell ;
And so this very foolish head heaven solders
Back on its trunk : it may be very well,
And seems the custom here to overthrow
Whatever has been wisely done below."

XXII.

The angel answer'd, "Peter! do not pout :
The king who comes has head and all entire,
And never knew much what it was about—
He did as doth the puppet—by its wire,
And will be judged like all the rest, no doubt:
My business and your own is not to inquire
Into such matters, but to mind our cue—
Which is to act as we are bid to do."

XXIII.

While thus they spake, the angelic caravan,
Arriving like a rush of mighty wind,
Cleaving the fields of space, as doth the swan
Some silver stream (say Ganges, Nile, or
Inde,

Or Thames, or Tweed), and midst them an old man
With an old soul, and both extremely blind,
Halted before the gate, and in his shroud
Seated their fellow-traveller on a cloud.

XXIV.

But bringing up the rear of this bright host,
A Spirit of a different aspect waved [coast
His wings, like thunder-clouds above some
Whose barren beach with frequent wrecks is paved; [toss'd;
His brow was like the deep when tempest-
Fierce and unfathomable thoughts engraved
Eternal wrath on his immortal face,
And *where* he gazed, a gloom pervaded space.

XXV.

As he drew near, he gazed upon the gate
Ne'er to be enter'd more by him or Sin,
With such a glance of supernatural hate,
As made St. Peter wish himself within:
He patter'd with his keys at a great rate,
And sweated through his apostolic skin:
Of course his perspiration was but ichor,
Or some such other spiritual liquor.

XXVI.

The very cherubs huddled all together,
Like birds when soars the falcon; and they
A tingling to the tip of every feather, [felt
And form'd a circle like Orion's belt
Around their poor old charge; who scarce knew whither [dealt
His guards had led him, though they gently
With royal manes (for by many stories,
And true, we learn the angels all are Tories).

XXVII.

As things were in this posture, the gate flew
Asunder, and the flashing of its hinges
Flung over space an universal hue
Of many-color'd flame, until its tinges [new
Reach'd even our speck of earth, and made a
Aurora borealis spread its fringes
O'er the North Pole, the same seen, when ice-bound, [Sound."
By Captain Perry's crew, in "Melville's

XXVIII.

And from the gate thrown open issued beaming
A beautiful and mighty Thing of Light,
Radiant with glory, like a banner streaming
Victorious from some world-o'erthrowing fight:
My poor comparisons must needs be teeming
With earthly likenesses, for here the night
Of clay obscures our best conceptions, saving
Johanna Southcote, or Bob Southey raving.

XXIX.

'Twas the archangel Michael: all men know
The make of angels and archangels, since
There's scarce a scribbler has not one to show,
From the fiends' leader to the angels' prince.
There also are some altar-pieces, though
I really can't say that they much evince
One's inner notions of immortal spirits;
But let the connoisseurs explain *their* merits.

XXX.

Michael flew forth in glory and in good,
A goodly work of Him from whom all glory
And good arise; the portal pass'd—he stood;
Before him the young cherubs and saints hoary—
(I say *young*, begging to be understood
By looks, not years, and should be very sorry
To state, they were not older than St. Peter,
But merely that they seem'd a little sweeter).

XXXI.

The cherubs and the saints bow'd down before
That archangelic hierarch, the first
Of essences angelical, who wore
The aspect of a god; but this ne'er nursed
Pride in his heavenly bosom, in whose core
No thought, save for his Maker's service, durst
Intrude, however glorified and high; [dur
He knew him but the viceroy of the sky.

XXXII.

He and the sombre silent Spirit met—
They knew each other both for good and ill;
Such was their power that neither could forget
His former friend and future foe; but still
There was a high, immortal, proud regret
In either's eye, as if 'twere less their will
Than destiny to make the eternal years
Their date of war, and their *champ clos* the spheres.

XXXIII.

But here they were in neutral space: we know
From Job, that Satan hath the power to pay
A heavenly visit thrice a year or so; [clay,
And that "the sons of God," like those of
Must keep him company; and we might show
From the same book, in how polite a way
The dialogue is held between the powers
Of Good and Evil—but 'twould take up hours.

XXXIV.

And this is not a theologic tract,
To prove with Hebrew and with Arabic,
If Job be allegory or a fact,
But a true narrative; and thus I pick
From out the whole but such and such an act,
As sets aside the slightest thought of trick.
'Tis every tittle true, beyond suspicion,
And accurate as any other vision.

XXXV.

The spirits were in neutral space, before
The gate of heaven: like eastern thresholds is [o'er,
The place where Death's grand cause is argued
And souls despatch'd to that world or to this;
And therefore Michael and the other wore
A civil aspect; though they did not kiss,
Yet still between his Darkness and his Brightness [ness
There pass'd a mutual glance of great polite-

XXXVI.

The Archangel bow'd, not like a modern beau,
But with a graceful Oriental bend,
Pressing one radiant arm just where below
The heart in good men is supposed to tend.
He turn'd as to an equal, not too low,
But kindly; Satan met his ancient friend
With more *hauteur*, as might an old Castilian
Poor noble meet a mushroom rich civilian.

XXXVII.

He merely bent his diabolic brow
An instant; and then raising it, he stood
In act to assert his right or wrong, and show
Cause why King George by no means could or should
Make out a case to be exempt from woe
Eternal, more than other kings, endued
With better sense and hearts, whom history mentions, [intentions."*
Who long have "paved hell with their good

XXXVIII.

Michael began: "What wouldst thou with this man, [What ill
Now dead, and brought before the Lord?
Hath he wrought since his mortal race began,
That thou canst claim him? Speak! and do thy will,
If it be just: if in this earthly span
He has been greatly failing to fulfil
His duties as a king and mortal, say,
And he is thine; if not, let him have way."

XXXIX.

"Michael!" replied the Prince of Air, "even here
Before the gate of Him thou servest, must
Claim my subject: and will make appear
That as he was my worshipper in dust,
So shall he be in spirit, although dear
To thee and thine, because nor wine nor lust
Were of his weaknesses; yet on the throne
He reign'd o'er millions to serve me alone.

XL.

"Look to *our* earth, or rather *mine:* it was,
Once, more thy Master's: but I triumph not
In this poor planet's conquest; nor, alas,
Need He thou servest envy me my lot:
With all the myriads of bright worlds which pass
In worship round Him, He may have forgot
Yon weak creation of such paltry things:
I think few worth damnation save their kings,—

XLI.

"And these but as a kind of quit-rent, to
Assert my right as lord; and even had
I such an inclination, 'twere (as you [so bad,
Well know) superfluous: they are grown
That hell has nothing better left to do
Than leave them to themselves! so much more mad
And evil by their own internal curse,
Heaven cannot make them better, nor I worse.

XLII.

"Look to the earth, I said, and say again:
When this old, blind, mad, helpless, weak, poor worm [reign,
Began in youth's first bloom and flush to reign
The world and he both wore a different form,
And much of earth and all the watery plain
Of ocean call'd him king: through many a storm
His isles had floated on the abyss of time;
For the rough virtues chose them for their clime.

XLIII.

"He came to his sceptre young; he leaves it old: [realm,
Look to the state in which he found his
And left it: and his annals too behold,
How to a minion* first he gave the helm:
How grew upon his heart a thirst for gold,
The beggar's vice, which can but overwhelm
The meanest hearts; and for the rest, but glance
Thine eye along America and France.

XLIV.

"'Tis true, he was a tool from first to last
(I have the workmen safe); but as a tool
So let him be consumed. From out the past
Of ages, since mankind have known the rule
Of monarchs—from the bloody rolls amass'd
Of sin and slaughter—from the Cæsars' school
Take the worst pupil; and produce a reign
More drenched with gore, more cumber'd with the slain.

XLV.

"He ever warr'd with freedom and the free;
Nations as men, home subjects, foreign foes,
So that they utter'd the word 'Liberty!'
Found George the Third their first opponent.
History was ever stain'd as his will be [Whose
With national and individual woes?
I grant his household abstinence; I grant
His neutral virtues, which most monarchs want;

XLVI.

"I know he was a constant consort; own
He was a decent sire, and middling lord.
All this is much, and most upon a throne;
His temperance, if at Apicius' board,
Is more than at an anchorite's supper shown.
I grant him all the kindest can accord:
And this was well for him, but not for those
Millions who found him what oppression chose.

* "'No saint in the course of his religious warfare was more sensible of the unhappy failure of pious resolves than Dr. Johnson: he said one day, talking to an acquaintance on this subject, 'Sir, hell is paved with good intentions.'"

* Lord Bute.

XLVII.

"The New World shook him off; the Old yet groans
Beneath what he and his prepared, if not
Completed: he leaves heirs on many thrones
To all his vices, without what begot
Compassion for him—his tame virtues; drones
Who sleep, or despots who have now forgot
A lesson which shall be retaught them, wake
Upon the thrones of earth: but let them quake!

XLVIII.

"Five millions of the primitive,* who hold
The faith which makes ye great on earth, implored
A *part* of that vast *all* they held of old—
Freedom to worship—not alone your Lord,
Michael, but you, and you, Saint Peter! Cold
Must be your souls, if you have not abhorr'd
The foe to Catholic participation
In all the license of a Christian nation.

XLIX.

"True! he allow'd them to pray God: but as
A consequence of prayer, refused the law
Which would have placed them upon the same base [awe."
With those who did not hold the saints in
But here Saint Peter started from his place,
And cried, "You may the prisoner withdraw; [Guelph,
Ere heaven shall ope her portals to this
While I am guard, may I be damn'd myself!

L.

"Sooner will I with Cerberus exchange
My office (and *his* is no sinecure),
Than see this royal Bedlam bigot range
The azure fields of heaven, of that be sure!"
"Saint!" replied Satan, "you do well to avenge [dure;
The wrongs he made your satellites en-
And if to this exchange you should be given,
I'll try to coax *our* Cerberus up to heaven."

LI.

Here Michael interposed: "Good saint! and devil! [tion.
Pray, not so fast; you both outrun discre-
Saint Peter! you were wont to be more civil;
Satan! excuse this warmth of his expression,
And condescension to the vulgar's level:
Even saints sometimes forget themselves in session. [you please,
Have you not more to say?"—"No."—"If
I'll trouble you to call your witnesses."

LII.

Then Satan turn'd and waved his swarthy hand,
Which stirr'd with its electric qualities
Clouds farther off than we can understand,
Although we find him sometimes in our skies;

Infernal thunder shook both sea and land
In all the planets, and hell's batteries
Let off the artillery, which Milton mentions
As one of Satan's most sublime inventions.

LIII.

This was a signal unto such damn'd souls
As have the privilege of their damnation
Extended far beyond the mere controls
Of worlds past, present, or to come; no
Is theirs particularly in the rolls [station
Of Hell assign'd, but where their inclination
Or business carries them in search of game,
They may range freely—being damn'd the same.

LIV.

They're proud of this—as very well they may,
It being a sort of knighthood, or gilt key
Stuck in their loins; or like to an *entré*
Up the back stairs, or such freemasonry.
I borrow my comparisons from clay,
Being clay myself. Let not those spirits be
Offended with such base low likenesses;
We know their posts are nobler far than these.

LV.

When the great signal ran from heaven to hell—
About ten million times the distance reckon'd
From our sun to its earth, as we can tell
How much time it takes up, even to a second,
For every ray that travels to dispel [beacon'd,
The fogs of London, through which, dimly
The weathercocks are gilt some thrice a year,
If that the *summer* is not too severe.

LVI.

I say that I can tell—'twas half a minute;
I know the solar beams take up more time
Ere, pack'd up for their journey, they begin it;
But then their telegraph is less sublime:
And if they ran a race, they would not win it
'Gainst Satan's couriers bound for their own clime.
The sun takes up some years for every ray
To reach its goal—the devil not half a day.

LVII.

Upon the verge of space, about the size
Of half-a-crown, a little speck appear'd
(I've seen a something like it in the skies
In the Ægean, ere a squall); it near'd,
And, growing bigger, took another guise:
Like an aërial ship, it tack'd and steer'd,
Or *was* steer'd (I am doubtful of the grammar [stammar;
Of the last phrase, which makes the stanza

LVIII.

But take your choice); and then it grew a cloud;
And so it was—a cloud of witnesses.
But such a cloud! No land ere saw a crowd
Of locusts numerous as the heavens saw these: [loud
They shadow'd with their myriads space; their

* Roman Catholics.

And varied cries were like those of wild geese
f nations may be liken'd to a goose),
d realized the phrase of "hell broke loose."

LIX.

re crash'd a sturdy oath of stout John Bull,
Who damn'd away his eyes as heretofore :
ore Paddy brogued "By Jasus!"—"What's your wull?" [ghosts swore
The temperate Scot exclaim'd : the French
certain terms I shan't translate in full,
As the first coachman will ; and midst the war,
e voice of Jonathan was heard to express,
Our President is going to war, I guess."

LX.

sides, there were the Spaniard, Dutch and Dane ;
In short, an universal shoal of shades,
om Otaheite's isle to Salisbury Plain,
Of all climes and professions, years and trades,
ady to swear against the good king's reign,
Bitter as clubs in cards are against spades ;
summon'd by this grand "subpœna," to
y if kings mayn't be damn'd like me or you.

LXI.

nen Michael saw this host he first grew pale,
As angels can ; next, like Italian twilight,
turn'd all colors—as a peacock's tail,
Or sunset streaming through a Gothic sky-
some old abbey, or a trout not stale, [light
Or distant lightning on the horizon *by* night,
a fresh rainbow, or a grand review
thirty regiments in red, green and blue.

LXII.

en he address'd himself to Satan : "Why,
My good old friend—for such I deem you, though
ir different parties make us fight so shy,
ne'er mistake you for a *personal* foe :
r difference is *political*, and I
Trust that, whatever may occur below,
u know my great respect for you : and this
kes me regret whate'er you do amiss—

LXIII.

Why, my dear Lucifer, would you abuse
My call for witnesses ? I did not mean
at you should half of earth and hell produce :
'Tis even superfluous, since two honest,
ne testimonies are enough: we lose [clean,
Our time, nay, our eternity, between
e accusation and defence : if we
ar both, 'twill stretch our immortality."

LXIV.

an replied, "To me the matter is
Indifferent, in a personal point of view :
an have fifty better souls than this [through
With far less trouble than we have gone
eady ; and I merely argued his
ate Majesty of Britain's case with you
Upon a point of form : you may dispose
Of him ; I've kings enough below, God knows!"

LXV.

Thus spoke the Demon (late call'd "multi-faced" [call
By multo-scribbling Southey). "Then we'll
One or two persons of the myriads placed
Around our congress, and dispense with all
The rest," quoth Michael : "Who may be so graced [who shall
As to speak first ? there's choice enough—
It be?" Then Satan answer'd, "There are many : [any."
But you may choose Jack Wilkes as well as

LXVI.

A merry, cock-eyed, curious looking sprite
Upon the instant started from the throng,
Dress'd in a fashion now forgotten quite ;
For all the fashions of the flesh stick long
By people in the next world ; where unite
All the costumes since Adam's, right or wrong,
From Eve's fig-leaf down to the petticoat,
Almost as scanty, of days less remote.

LXVII.

The spirit look'd around upon the crowds [all
Assembled, and exclaim'd, "My friends of
The spheres, we shall catch cold amongst these clouds ;
So let's to business : why this general call?
If those are freeholders I see in shrouds,
And 'tis for an election that they bawl,
Behold a candidate with unturn'd coat!
Saint Peter, may I count upon your vote?"

LXVIII.

"Sir," replied Michael, "you mistake ; these things
Are of a former life, and what we do
Above is more august ; to judge of kings
Is the tribunal met : so now you know."
"Then I presume those gentlemen with wings," [below
Said Wilkes, "are cherubs ; and that soul
Looks much like George the Third, but to my mind
A good deal older—Bless me! is he blind?"

LXIX.

"He is what you behold him, and his doom
Depends upon his deeds," the Angel said.
"If you have aught to arraign in him, the tomb [head
Gives license to the humblest beggar's
To lift itself against the loftiest."—"Some,"
Said Wilkes, "don't wait to see them laid in lead
For such a liberty—and I, for one, [sun."
Have told them what I thought beneath the

LXX.

"*Above* the sun repeat, then, what thou hast
To urge against him," said the Archangel.
"Why,"

Replied the spirit, "since old scores are past,
Must I turn evidence? In faith, not I.
Besides, I beat him hollow at the last,
With all his Lords and Commons: in the [sky
I don't like ripping up old stories, since
His conduct was but natural in a prince.

LXXI.

"Foolish, no doubt, and wicked, to oppress
A poor unlucky devil without a shilling;
But then I blame the man himself much less
Than Bute and Grafton;* and shall be unwilling
To see him punish'd here for their excess,
Since they were both damn'd long ago, and still in
Their place below: for me, I have forgiven,
And vote his *habeas corpus* into heaven."

LXXII.

"Wilkes," said the Devil, "I understand all this;
You turn'd to half a courtier ere you died,
And seem to think it would not be amiss
To grow a whole one on the other side
Of Charon's ferry; you forget that *his*
Reign is concluded; whatsoe'er betide,
He won't be sovereign more: you've lost your labor,
For at the best he will but be your neighbor.

LXXIII.

"However, I knew what to think of it,
When I beheld you in your jesting way,
Flitting and whispering round about the spit
Where Belial, upon duty for the day,
With Fox's lard was basting William Pitt,
His pupil; I knew what to think, I say:
That fellow even in hell breeds further ills:
I'll have him *gagg'd*—'twas one of his own bills.

LXXIV.

"Call Junius!" From the crowd a shadow stalk'd, [squeeze,
And at the name there was a general
So that the very ghosts no longer walk'd
In comfort, at their own aërial ease, [balk'd,
But were all ramm'd, and jamm'd (but to be
As we shall see), and jostled hands and knees, [bladder,
Like wind compress'd, and pent within a
Or like a human colic, which is sadder.

LXXV.

The shadow came—a tall, thin, grey-hair'd figure,
That look'd as it had been a shade on earth;
Quick in its motions, with an air of vigor,
But nought to mark its breeding or its birth;
Now it wax'd little, then again grew bigger,
With now an air of gloom, or savage mirth;
But as you gazed upon its features, they [say.
Changed every instant—to *what*, none could

LXXVI.

The more intently the ghosts gazed, the less
Could they distinguish whose the features were; [guess;
The Devil himself seem'd puzzled even to
They varied like a dream—now here, now there;
And several people swore from out the press,
They knew him perfectly; and one could
He was his father; upon which another [swear
Was sure he was his mother's cousin's brother:

LXXVII.

Another, that he was a duke, or knight,
An orator, a lawyer, or a priest,
A nabob, a man-midwife; but the wight
Mysterious changed his countenance at least
As oft as they their minds: though in full sight
He stood, the puzzle only was increased:
The man was a phantasmagoria in
Himself—he was so volatile and thin.

LXXVIII.

The moment that you had pronounced him *one*, [another;
Presto! his face changed, and he was
And when that change was hardly well put on,
It varied, till I don't think his own mother
(If that he had a mother) would her son
Have known, he shifted so from one to t'other;
Till guessing from a pleasure grew a task,
At this epistolary "Iron Mask."

LXXIX.

For sometimes he like Cerberus would seem—
"Three gentlemen at once," (as sagely says
Good Mrs. Malaprop): then you might deem
That he was not even *one;* now many rays
Were flashing round him; and now a thick steam [days:
Hid him from sight—like fogs on London
Now Burke, now Tooke, he grew to people's fancies,
And certes often like Sir Philip Francis.

LXXX.

I've an hypothesis—'tis quite my own:
I never let it out till now, for fear
Of doing people harm about the throne,
And injuring some minister or peer,
On whom the stigma might perhaps be blown:
It is—my gentle public, lend thine ear!
'Tis that what Junius we are wont to call
Was *really, truly*, nobody at all.

LXXXI.

I don't see wherefore letters should not be
Written without hands, since we daily view
Them written without heads: and books, we
Are filled as well without the latter too: [see,
And really till we fix on somebody
For certain sure to claim them as his due,
Their author, like the Niger's mouth, will bother
The world to say if *there* be mouth or author.

* George III.'s Ministers.

LXXXII.

And who and what art thou?" the Archangel said.
"For that you may consult my title-page,"
plied this mighty shadow of a shade:
"If I have kept my secret half an age,
carce shall tell it now." "Canst thou upbraid,"
Continued Michael, "George Rex, or allege
ght further?" Junius answered, "You had better
rst ask him for *his* answer to my letter:

LXXXIII.

My charges upon record will outlast
The brass of both his epitaph and tomb."
Repent'st thou not," said Michael, "of some past
Exaggeration? Something which may doom
myself if false, as him if true? Thou wast
Too bitter—is it not so?—in thy gloom
passion?" "Passion!" cried the phantom dim,
I loved my country, and I hated him.

LXXXIV.

What I have written, I have written: let
The rest be on his head or mine!" So spoke
d "Nominis Umbra"; and while speaking
Away he melted in celestial smoke. [yet,
hen Satan said to Michael, "Don't forget
To call George Washington and John Horne Tooke, [heard
d Franklin." But at this time there was
cery for room, though not a phantom stirr'd.

LXXXV.

length with jostling, elbowing, and the aid
Of cherubim appointed to that post,
he devil Asmodeus to the circle made
His way, and look'd as if his journey cost
me trouble. When his burden down he laid, [not a ghost!"
"What's this?" cried Michael; "why, 'tis
I know it," quoth the incubus; "but he
hall be one, if you leave the affair to me.

LXXXVI.

Confound the renegado! I have sprain'd
My left wing, he's so heavy; one would think
me of his works about his neck were chain'd.
But to the point: while hovering o'er the brink
Skiddaw (where as usual it still rain'd),
I saw a taper, far below me, wink,
nd stooping, caught this fellow at a libel—
o less on history than the Holy Bible.

LXXXVII.

The former is the Devil's Scripture, and
The latter yours, good Michael; so the affair
longs to all of us, you understand.
I snatch'd him up just as you see him there,
nd brought him off for sentence out of hand:
I've scarcely been ten minutes in the air—
At least a quarter it can scarcely be:
I dare say that his wife is still at tea."

LXXXVIII.

Here Satan said, "I know this man of old,
And have expected him for some time here;
A sillier fellow you will scarce behold,
Or more conceited in his petty sphere:
But surely it was not worth while to fold
Such trash below your wing, Asmodeus dear;
We had the poor wretch safe (without being bored
With carriage) coming of his own accord.

LXXXIX.

"But since he's here, let's see what he has done."
"Done!" cried Asmodeus; "He anticipates
The very business you are now upon,
And scribbles as if head clerk to the Fates.
Who knows to what his ribaldry may run,
When such an ass as this, like Balaam's, prates?" [to say;
"Let's hear," quoth Michael, "what he has
You know we're bound to that in every way."

XC.

Now the bard, glad to get an audience, which
By no means often was his case below,
Began to cough, and hawk, and hem, and pitch
His voice into that awful note of woe
To all unhappy hearers within reach
Of poets when the tide of rhyme's in flow;
But stuck fast with his first hexameter,
Not one of all whose gouty feet would stir.

XCI.

But ere the spavin'd dactyls could be spurr'd
Into recitative, in great dismay,
Both cherubim and seraphim were heard
To murmur loudly through their long array;
And Michael rose ere he could get a word
Of all his founder'd verses under way,
And cried, "For God's sake stop, my friend; 'twere best—
Non Di, non homines—you know the rest."

XCII.

A general bustle spread throughout the throng, [tion:
Which seem'd to hold all verse in detesta-
The angels had of course enough of song
When upon service; and the generation
Of ghosts had heard too much in life, not long
Before, to profit by a new occasion;
The monarch, mute till then, exclaim'd, "What! what! [that!"
*Pye** come again? No more—no more of

XCIII.

The tumult grew; an universal cough
Convulsed the skies, as during a debate,
When Castlereagh has been up long enough
(Before he was First Minister of State,
I mean—the *slaves hear now*); some cried, "Off, off!"

* George III.'s Poet Laureate.

As at a farce, till, grown quite desperate,
The bard Saint Peter pray'd to interpose
(Himself an author) only for his prose.

XCIV.

The varlet was not an ill-favor'd knave;
A good deal like a vulture in the face,
With a hook nose and a hawk's eye, which gave
A smart and sharper-looking sort of grace
To his whole aspect, which, though rather grave,
Was by no means so ugly as his case;
But that indeed was hopeless as can be,
Quite a poetic felony "*de se*."

XCV.

Then Michael blew his trump, and still'd the noise
With one still greater, as is yet the mode
On earth besides: except some grumbling voice
Which now and then will make a slight inroad
Upon decorous silence, few will twice
Lift up their lungs when fairly overcrow'd;
And now the bard could plead his own bad cause,
With all the attitudes of self-applause.

XCVI.

He said—(I only give the heads)—he said,
He meant no harm in scribbling; 'twas his way
Upon all topics; 'twas, besides, his bread,
Of which he butter'd both sides: 'twould delay
Too long the assembly (he was pleas'd to dread),
And take up rather more time than a day,
To name his works—he would but cite a few—
"Wat Tyler," "Rhymes on Blenheim," "Waterloo."

XCVII.

He had written praises of a regicide;
He had written praises of all kings whatever:
He had written for republics far and wide,
And then against them bitterer than ever;
For pantisocracy he once had cried
Aloud—a scheme less moral than 'twas clever;
Then grew a hearty anti-Jacobin—
Had turn'd his coat—and would have turn'd his skin.

XCVIII.

He had sung against all battles, and again
In their high praise and glory: he had call'd
Reviewing "the ungentle craft," and then*
Become as base a critic as e'er crawl'd—
Fed, paid, and pamper'd by the very men
By whom his muse and morals had been maul'd:
He had written much blank verse, and blanker prose,
And more of both than anybody knows.

XCIX.

He had written Wesley's life:—here turning round
To Satan, "Sir, I'm ready to write yours,
In two octavo volumes, nicely bound,
With notes and preface, all that most allures
The pious purchaser; and there's no ground
For fear, for I can choose my own reviewers:
So let me have the proper documents,
That I may add you to my other saints."

C.

Satan bow'd, and was silent. "Well, if you
With amiable modesty decline
My offer, what says Michael? There are few
Whose memoirs could be render'd more divine.
Mine is a pen of all work: not so new
As it was once, but I would make you shine
Like your own trumpet. By the way, my own
Has more of brass in it, and is as well blown.

CI.

"But talking about trumpets, here's my Vision!
Now you shall judge, all people; yes, you shall
Judge with my judgment, and by my decision
Be guided who shall enter heaven or fall.
I settle all these things by intuition,
Times, present, past, to come, heaven, hell, and all,
Like King Alfonso.* When I think see double,
I save the Deity some worlds of trouble."

CII.

He ceased, and drew forth an MS.; and no
Persuasion on the part of devils, saints,
Or angels, now could stop the torrent; so
He read the first three lines of the contents;
But at the fourth, the whole spiritual show
Had vanish'd, with variety of scents,
Ambrosial and sulphureous, as they sprang
Like lightning, off from his "melodious twang."†

CIII.

Those grand heroics acted as a spell;
The angels stopp'd their ears and plied their pinions:
The devils ran howling, deafen'd, down to hell;
The ghosts fled, gibbering, for their own dominions—
(For 'tis not yet decided where they dwell,
And I leave every man to his own opinions);
Michael took refuge in his trump; but, lo,
His teeth were set on edge, he could not blow!

CIV.

Saint Peter, who has hitherto been known
For an impetuous saint, upraised his keys,
And at the fifth line knock'd the poet down;
Who fell like Phaeton, but more at ease,
Into his lake, for there he did not drown;
A different web being by the destinies
Woven for the Laureate's final wreath, whenever
Reform shall happen either here or there.

CV.

He first sank to the bottom—like his works,
But soon rose to the surface—like himself;

* See "Life of Henry Kirke White."

* Alfonso, speaking of the Ptolemean system, said that "had he been consulted at the creation of the world, he would have spared the Maker some absurdities."

† See Aubrey's account of the apparition which disappeared "with a curious perfume and a most melodious twang"; or see the "Antiquary," vol. i. p. 225.

For all corrupted things are buoy'd like corks,*
By their own rottenness, light as an elf,
Or wisp that flits o'er a morass; he lurks,
It may be, still, like dull books on a shelf,
In his own den, to scrawl some "Life" or "Vision,"
As Welborn says—"the devil turn'd precisian."

* A drowned body lies at the bottom till rotten: it then floats, as most people know.

CVI.

As for the rest, to come to the conclusion
Of this true dream, the telescope is gone
Which kept my optics free from all delusion,
And show'd me what I in my turn have shown;
All I saw further, in the last confusion,
Was, that King George slipp'd into heaven for one;
And when the tumult dwindled to a calm,
I left him practising the hundredth psalm.

THE AGE OF BRONZE;

OR,

CARMEN SECULARE ET ANNUS HAUD MIRABILIS.

"Impar *Congressus* Achilli."

I.

The "good old times"—all times when old are good—
Are gone; the present might be if they would;
Great things have been, and are, and greater shall,
Want little of mere mortals but their will:
A wider space, a greener field, is given
To those who play their "tricks before high heaven."
I know not if the angels weep, but men
Have wept enough—for what?—to weep again!

II.

All is exploded—be it good or bad.
Reader! remember when thou wert a lad,
Then Pitt was all; or, if not all, so much,
His very rival almost deem'd him such.
We, we have seen the intellectual race
Of giants stand, like Titans, face to face—
Athos and Ida, with a dashing sea
Of eloquence between, which flow'd all free,
As the deep billows of the Ægean roar
Betwixt the Hellenic and the Phrygian shore.
But where are they—the rivals! a few feet
Of sullen earth divide each winding-sheet.
How peaceful and how powerful is the grave,
Which hushes all! a calm, unstormy wave,
Which oversweeps the world. The theme is old
Of "dust to dust"; but half its tale untold:
Time tempers not its terrors—still the worm
Winds its cold folds, the tomb preserves its form,
Varied aboye, but still alike below;
The urn may shine, the ashes will not glow,
Though Cleopatra's mummy cross the sea
O'er which from empire she lured Anthony;
Though Alexander's urn a show be grown
On shores he wept to conquer, though unknown—
How vain, how worse than vain, at length appear
The madman's wish, the Macedonian's tear!
He wept for worlds to conquer—half the earth
Knows not his name, or but his death and birth,
And desolation; while his native Greece
Hath all of desolation, save its peace
He "wept for worlds to conquer!" he who ne'er
Conceived the globe, he panted not to spare!
With even the busy Northern Isle unknown,
Which holds his urn, and never knew his throne.

III.

But where is he, the modern, mightier far,
Who, born no king, made monarchs draw his car;
The new Sesostris, whose unharness'd kings,
Freed from the bit, believe themselves with wings,
And spurn the dust o'er which they crawl'd of late,
Chain'd to the chariot of the chieftain's state!
Yes! where is he, the champion and the child
Of all that's great or little, wise or wild;
Whose game was empires, and whose stakes were thrones;
Whose table earth—whose dice were human bones?
Behold the grand result in yon lone isle,
And, as thy nature urges, weep or smile.
Sigh to behold the eagle's lofty rage
Reduced to nibble at his narrow cage;
Smile to survey the queller of the nations
Now daily squabbling o'er disputed rations;
Weep to perceive him mourning, as he dines,
O'er curtail'd dishes and o'er stinted wines;
O'er petty quarrels upon petty things.
Is this the man who scourged or feasted kings?
Behold the scales in which his fortune hangs,
A surgeon's statement, and an earl's harangues!
A bust delay'd, a book refused, can shake
The sleep of him who kept the world awake.
Is this indeed the tamer of the great,
Now slave of all could tease or irritate—
The paltry gaoler and the prying spy,
The staring stranger with his note-book nigh?
Plunged in a dungeon he had still been great;
How low, how little, was this middle state,
Between a prison and a palace, where
How few could feel for what he had to bear!
Vain his complaint,—my lord presents his bill,
His food and wine were doled out duly still;
Vain was his sickness, never was a clime

So free from homicide—to doubt's a crime ;
And the stiff surgeon, who maintain'd his cause,
Hath lost his place, and gain'd the world's applause. [heart
But smile—though all the pangs of brain and
Disdain, defy, the tardy aid of art ; [face
Though, save the few fond friends and imaged
Of that fair boy his sire shall ne'er embrace,
None stand by his low bed—though even the mind [kind ;
Be wavering, which long awed and awes man-
Smile—for the fetter'd eagle breaks his chain,
And higher worlds than this are his again.

IV.

How, if that soaring spirit still retain
A conscious twilight of his blazing reign,
How must he smile, on looking down, to see
The little that he was and sought to be !
What though his name a wider empire found
Than his ambition, though with scarce a bound ;
Though first in glory, deepest in reverse,
He tasted empire's blessings and its curse ;
Though kings, rejoicing in their late escape
From chains, would gladly be *their* tyrant's ape ;
How must he smile, and turn to yon lone grave,
The proudest sea-mark that o'ertops the wave!
What though his gaoler, duteous to the last,
Scarce deem'd the coffin's lead could keep him fast,
Refusing one poor line along the lid,
To date the birth and death of all it hid ;
That name shall hallow the ignoble shore,
A talisman to all save him who bore :
The fleets that sweep before the eastern blast
Shall hear their sea-boys hail it from the mast;
When Victory's Gallic column shall but rise,
Like Pompey's pillar, in a desert's skies,
The rocky isle that holds or held his dust,
Shall crown the Atlantic like the hero's bust,
And mighty nature o'er his obsequies
Do more than niggard envy still denies.
But what are these to him? Can glory's lust
Touch the freed spirit or the fetter'd dust?
Small care hath he of what his tomb consists ;
Nought if he sleeps—nor more if he exists :
Alike the better-seeing shade will smile
On the rude cavern of the rocky isle,
As if his ashes found their latest home
In Rome's Pantheon or Gaul's mimic dome.
He wants not this ; but France shall feel the want
Of this last consolation, though so scant ;
Her honor, fame, and faith demand his bones,
To rear above a pyramid of thrones ;
Or carried onward in the battle's van,
To form, like Guesclin's* dust, her talisman.
But be it as it is—the time may come
His name shall beat the alarm, like Ziska's drum.

* Guesclin died during the siege of a city : it surrendered, and the keys were brought and laid upon his bier, so that the place might appear rendered to his ashes.

V.

Oh heaven ! of which he was in power a feature ;
Oh earth ! of which he was a noble creature ;
Thou isle ! to be remember'd long and well,
That saw'st the unfledged eaglet chip his shell!
Ye Alps ! which view'd him in his dawning flights
Hover, the victor of a hundred fights ! [done !
Thou Rome, who saw'st thy Cæsar's deeds out-
Alas ! why pass'd he too the Rubicon—
The Rubicon of man's awaken'd rights,
To herd with vulgar kings and parasites?
Egypt ! from whose all dateless tombs arose
Forgotten Pharaohs from their long repose,
And shook within their pyramids to hear
A new Cambyses thundering in their ear ;
While the dark shades of forty ages stood
Like startled giants by Nile's famous flood ;
Or from the pyramid's tall pinnacle
Beheld the desert peopled, as from hell,
With clashing hosts, who strew'd the barren sand,
To re-manure the uncultivated land ! [Spain ! which, a moment mindless of the Cid,
Beheld his banner flouting thy Madrid !
Austria ! which saw thy twice-ta'en capital
Twice spared to be the traitress of his fall !
Ye race of Frederic !—Frederics but in name
And falsehood—heirs to all except his fame ;
Who, crush'd at Jena, crouch'd at Berlin, fell
First, and but rose to follow ! Ye who dwell
Where Kosciusko dwelt, remembering yet
The unpaid amount of Catherine's bloody debt!
Poland ! o'er which the avenging angel pass'd,
But left thee as he found thee, still a waste,
Forgetting all thy still enduring claim,
Thy lotted people and extinguish'd name,
Thy sigh for freedom, thy long-flowing tear,
That sound that crashes in the tyrant's ear—
Kosciusko ! On—on—on—the thirst of war
Gasps for the gore of serfs and of their czar.
The half-barbaric Moscow's minarets
Gleam in the sun, but 'tis a sun that sets !
Moscow ! thou limit of his long career, [tear
For which rude Charles had wept his frozen
To see in vain—*he* saw thee—how? with spire
And palace fuel to one common fire.
To this the soldier lent his kindling match,
To this the peasant gave his cottage thatch,
To this the merchant flung his hoarded store,
The prince his hall—and Moscow was no more!
Sublimest of volcanos ! Etna's flame [tame ;
Pales before thine, and quenchless Hecla's
Vesuvius shows his blaze, an usual sight
For gaping tourists, from his hackney'd height :
Thou stand'st alone unrivall'd, till the fire
To come, in which all empires shall expire.

Thou other element ! as strong and stern,
To teach a lesson conquerors will not learn!—
Whose icy wing flapp'd o'er the faltering foe,
Till fell a hero with each flake of snow ;
How did thy numbing beak and silent fang
Pierce, till hosts perish'd with a single pang !
In vain shall Seine look up along his banks

r the gay thousands of his dashing ranks!
vain shall France recall beneath her vines
r youth—their blood flows faster than her wines;
stagnant in their human ice remains
frozen mummies on the Polar plains.
vain will Italy's broad sun awaken [saken.
r offspring chill'd; its beams are now for-
all the trophies gather'd from the war,
at shall return? the conqueror's broken car!
e conqueror's yet unbroken heart! Again
e horn of Roland sounds, and not in vain.
tzen, where fell the Swede of victory,
holds him conquer, but, alas! not die:
lesden surveys three despots fly once more
fore their sovereign,—sovereign as before;
t there exhausted Fortune quits the field,
id Leipsic's treason bids the unvanquish'd
e Saxon jackal leaves the lion's side [yield.
turn the bear's, and wolf's, and fox's guide;
d backward to the den of his despair
e forest monarch shrinks, but finds no lair!
Oh ye! and each and all! Oh France! who found [ground,
y long fair fields plough'd up as hostile
sputed foot by foot, till treason, still
s only victor, from Montmartre's hill [Isle,
ok'd down o'er trampled Paris! and thou
hich seest Etruria from thy ramparts smile,
ou momentary shelter of his pride,
l woo'd by danger, his yet weeping bride!
, France! retaken by a single march, [arch!
ose path was through one long triumphal
, blood and most bootless Waterloo!
hich proves how fools may have their fortune too,
n half by blunder, half by treachery:
, dull Saint Helen! with thy gaoler nigh—
ar! hear Prometheus from his rock appeal *
earth, air, ocean, all that felt or feel
s power and glory, all who yet shall hear
name eternal as the rolling year;
teaches them the lesson taught so long,
oft, so vainly—learn to do no wrong!
single step into the right had made
is man the Washington of worlds betray'd:
single step into the wrong has given
s name a doubt to all the winds of heaven;
e reed of Fortune, and of thrones the rod,
Fame the Moloch or the demigod;
s country's Cæsar, Europe's Hannibal,
ithout their decent dignity of fall.
t Vanity herself had better taught
surer path even to the fame he sought,
pointing out on history's fruitless page
n thousand conquerors for a single sage.
hile Franklin's quiet memory climbs to heaven, [riven,
iming the lightning which he thence hath
drawing from the no less kindled earth
reedom and peace to that which boasts his birth; [ne'er
hile Washington's a watchword, such as Shall sink while there's an echo left to air:
While even the Spaniard's thirst of gold and
Forgets Pizarro to shout Bolivar! [war
Alas! why must the same Atlantic wave
Which wafted freedom gird a tyrant's grave—
The king of kings, and yet of slaves the slave,
Who burst the chains of millions to renew
The very fetters which his arm broke through,
And crush'd the rights of Europe and his own,
To flit between a dungeon and a throne?

VI.

But 'twill not be—the spark's awaken'd—lo!
The swarthy Spaniard feels his former glow;
The same high spirit which beat back the Moor
Through eight long ages of alternate gore
Revives—and where? in that avenging clime
Where Spain was once synonymous with crime,
Where Cortes and Pizarro's banner flew,
The infant world redeems her name of "*New.*"
'Tis the *old* aspiration breathed afresh,
To kindle souls within degraded flesh,
Such as repulsed the Persian from the shore
Where Greece *was*—No! she still is Greece once more. [breast,
One common cause makes myriads of one
Slaves of the East, or helots of the West:
On Andes' and on Athos' peaks unfurl'd,
The self-same standard streams o'er either world:
The Athenian wears again Harmodius' sword;
The Chili chief abjures his foreign lord;
The Spartan knows himself once more a Greek,
Young Freedom plumes the crest of each cacique;
Debating despots, hemm'd on either shore,
Shrink vainly from the roused Atlantic's roar;
Through Calpe's strait the rolling tides advance, [France,
Sweep slightly by the half-tamed land of
Dash o'er the old Spaniard's cradle, and would fain
Unite Ausonia to the mighty main: [aye,
But driven from thence a while, yet not for
Break o'er th' Ægean, mindful of the day
Of Salamis! there, there the waves arise,
Not to be lull'd by tyrant victories.
Lone, lost, abandon'd in their utmost need
By Christians, unto whom they gave their
The desolated lands, the ravaged isle, [creed,
The foster'd feud encouraged to beguile,
The aid evaded, and the cold delay,
Prolong'd but in the hope to make a prey:—
These, these shall tell the tale, and Greece can show
The false friend worse than the infuriate foe.
But this is well: Greeks only should free Greece,
Not the barbarian, with his mask of peace.
How should the autocrat of bondage be
The king of serfs, and set the nations free?
Better still serve the haughty Mussulman,
Than swell the Cossaque's prowling caravan;
Better still toil for masters, than await,
The slave of slaves, before a Russian gate,—
Number'd by hordes, a human capital,

* I refer the reader to the first address of Prometheus Æschylus, when he was left alone by his attendants, d before the arrival of the chorus of Sea-nymphs.

A live estate, existing but for thrall,
Lotted by thousands, as a meet reward
For the first courtier in the Czar's regard;
While their immediate owner never tastes
His sleep, *sans* dreaming of Siberia's wastes.
Better succumb even to their own despair,
And drive the camel than purvey the bear.

VII.

But not alone within the hoariest clime
Where Freedom dates her birth with that of Time, [crowd
And not alone where, plung'd in night, a
Of Incas darken to a dubious cloud,
The dawn revives; renown'd, romantic Spain
Holds back the invader from her soil again.
Not now the Roman tribe nor Punic horde
Demand her fields as lists to prove the sword;
Not now the Vandal or the Visigoth
Pollute the plains, alike abhorring both;
Nor old Pelayo on his mountain rears
The warlike fathers of a thousand years.
That seed is sown and reap'd, as oft the Moor
Sighs to remember on his dusky shore.
Long in the peasant's song or poet's page
Has dwelt the memory of Abencerrage;
The Zegri, and the captive victors, flung
Back to the barbarous realm from whence they sprung. [their sway,
But these are gone—their faith, their swords,
Yet left more anti-christian foes than they;
The bigot monarch, and the butcher priest,
The Inquisition, with her burning feast,
The faith's red "auto," fed with human fuel,
While sate the Catholic Moloch, calmly cruel,
Enjoying, with inexorable eye,
That fiery festival of agony!
The stern or feeble sovereign, one or both
By turns; the haughtiness whose pride was sloth;
The long degenerate noble; the debased
Hidalgo, and the peasant less disgraced,
But more degraded; the unpeopled realm;
The once proud navy which forgot the helm;
The once impervious phalanx disarray'd;
The idle forge that form'd Toledo's blade;
The foreign wealth that flow'd on ev'ry shore,
Save hers who earn'd it with the natives' gore;
The very language which might vie with Rome's, [homes,
And once was known to nations like their
Neglected or forgotten:—such was Spain;
But such she is not, nor shall be again.
These worst, these *home* invaders, felt and feel
The new Numantine soul of old Castile.
Up! up again! undaunted Tauridor!
The bull of Phalaris renews his roar;
Mount, chivalrous Hidalgo! not in vain
Revive the cry!—"Iago! and close Spain!"*
Yes, close her with your armed bosoms round,
And form the barrier which Napoleon found,—
The exterminating war, the desert plain,
The streets without a tenant, save the slain!
The wild sierra, with its wilder troop
Of vulture-plumed guerillas, on the stoop
For their incessant prey; the desperate wall
Of Saragossa, mightiest in her fall;
The man nerved to a spirit, and the maid
Waving her more than Amazonian blade;
The knife of Arragon,* Toledo's steel;
The famous lance of chivalrous Castile;
The unerring rifle of the Catalan;
The Andalusian courser in the van;
The torch to make a Moscow of Madrid;
And in each heart the spirit of the Cid:—
Such have been, such shall be, such are. Advance, [France!
And win—not Spain! but thine own freedom,

VIII.

But lo! a Congress! What! that hallow'd name [same
Which freed the Atlantic! May we hope the
For outworn Europe? With the sound arise,
Like Samuel's shade to Saul's monarchic eyes,
The prophets of young Freedom, summon'd
From climes of Washington and Bolivar; [far
Henry, the forest-born Demosthenes,
Whose thunder shook the Philip of the seas;
And stoic Franklin's energetic shade, [lay'd;
Robed in the lightnings which his hand al-
And Washington, the tyrant-tamer, wake,
To bid us blush for these old chains, or break.
But *who* compose this senate of the few
That should redeem the many? *Who* renew
This consecrated name, till now assign'd
To councils held to benefit mankind?
Who now assemble at the holy call?
The blest Alliance, which says three are all!
An earthly trinity! which wears the shape
Of heaven's, as man is mimick'd by the ape.
A pious unity! in purpose one—
To melt three fools to a Napoleon.
Why, Egypt's gods were rational to these;
Their dogs and oxen knew their own degrees,
And, quiet in their kennel or their shed,
Cared little, so that they were duly fed;
But these, more hungry, must have something more—
The power to bark and bite, to toss and gore.
Ah, how much happier were good Æsop's frogs
Than we! for ours are animated logs,
With ponderous malice swaying to and fro,
And crushing nations with a stupid blow;
All duly anxious to leave little work
Unto the revolutionary stork.

IX.

Thrice blest Verona! since the holy three
With their imperial presence shine on thee!
Honor'd by them, thy treacherous site forgets
The vaunted tomb of "all the Capulets";
Thy Scaligers—for what was "Dog the Great,"
"Can Grande" (which I venture to translate,)
To these sublimer pugs? Thy poet too,
Catullus, whose old laurels yield to new;
Thine amphitheatre, where Romans sate;

* "St. Iago! and close Spain!" the old Spanish war-cry.

* The Arragonians are peculiarly dexterous in the use of this weapon, and displayed it particularly in former French wars.

nd Dante's exile sheltered by the gate ;
hy good old man,* whose world was all within
hy wall, nor knew the country held him in ;
Would that the royal guests it girds about
ere so far like, as never to get out ! [shame,
y, shout ! inscribe ! rear monuments of
o tell Oppression that the world is tame !
rowd to the theatre with loyal rage,
he comedy is not upon the stage ;
he show is rich in ribandry and stars,
hen gaze upon it through thy dungeon bars;
dap thy permitted palms, kind Italy,
or thus much still thy fetter'd hands are free.

X.

splendent sight ! Behold the coxcomb Czar,
he autocrat of waltzes and of war !
s eager for a plaudit as a realm,
nd just as fit for flirting as the helm ;
Calmuck beauty with a Cossack wit,
nd generous spirit, when 'tis not frost-bit ;
ow half dissolving to a liberal thaw,
ut harden'd back whene'er the morning's
ith no objection to true liberty, [raw ;
xcept that it would make the nations free.
ow well the imperial dandy prates of peace !
ow fain, if Greeks would be his slaves, free
Greece !
ow nobly gave he back the Poles their Diet,
hen told pugnacious Poland to be quiet !
ow kindly would he send the mild Ukraine,
ith all her pleasant pulks, to lecture Spain :
ow royally show off in proud Madrid
is goodly person, from the South long hid !
blessing cheaply purchased, the world
knows,
y having Muscovites for friends or foes.
roceed, thou namesake of great Philip's son !
a Harpe, thine Aristotle, beckons on ;
nd that which Scythia was to him of yore
ind with thy Scythians on Iberia's shore.
t think upon, thou somewhat aged youth,
hy predecessor on the banks of Pruth ;
hou hast to aid thee, should his lot be thine,
lany an old woman, but no Catherine.†
pain, too, hath rocks, and rivers, and defiles—
he bear may rush into the lion's toils.
atal to Goths are Xeres' sunny fields ;
hink'st thou to thee Napoleon's victor yields?
etter reclaim thy deserts, turn thy swords
o ploughshares, shave and wash thy Bashkir
hordes, [knout,
edeem thy realms from slavery and the
han follow headlong in the fatal route, [pure
o infest the clime whose skies and laws are
ith thy foul legions. Spain wants no man-
ure :
er soil is fertile, but she feeds no foe :
er vultures, too, were gorged not long ago ;
nd wouldst thou furnish them with fresher
las! thou wilt not conquer, but purvey. [prey?
am Diogenes, though Russ and Hun

* Claudian's famous old man of Verona.

† The dexterity of Catherine extricated Peter (called the Great by courtesy), when surrounded by the Mussulmans on the banks of the river Pruth.

Stand between mine and many a myriad's sun;
But were I not Diogenes, I'd wander
Rather a worm than *such* an Alexander !
Be slaves who will, the cynic shall be free ;
His tub hath tougher walls than Sinopè :
Still will he hold his lantern up to scan
The face of monarchs for an "honest man."

XI.

And what doth Gaul, the all-prolific land
Of *ne plus ultra* ultras and their band
Of mercenaries ? and her noisy chambers
And tribune, which each orator first clambers
Before he finds a voice, and when 'tis found,
Hears "the lie" echo for his answer round ?
Our British Commons sometimes deign to
"hear !"
A Gallic senate hath more tongue than ear ;
Even Constant, their sole master of debate,
Must fight next day his speech to vindicate.
But this costs little to true Franks, who'd
rather
Combat than listen, were it to their father.
What is the simple standing of a shot,
To listening long and interrupting not ?
Though this was not the method of old Rome,
When Tully fulmined o'er each vocal dome,
Demosthenes has sanction'd the transaction,
In saying eloquence meant "Action, action !"

XII.

But where's the monarch ? hath he dined ? or
Groans beneath indigestion's heavy debt? [yet
Have revolutionary patés risen,
And turn'd the royal entrails to a prison ?
Have discontented movements stirr'd the
troops? [soups ?
Or have *no* movements follow'd traitorous
Have Carbonaro cooks not carbonadoed
Each course enough? or doctors dire dissuaded
Repletion ? Ah ! in thy dejected looks
I read all France's treason in her cooks !
Good classic Louis ! is it, canst thou say,
Desirable to be the "Desiré" ? [abode,
Why wouldst thou leave calm Hartwell's green
Apician table, and Horatian ode,
To rule a people who will not be ruled,
And love much rather to be scourged than
school'd ?
Ah ! thine was not the temper or the taste
For thrones : the table sees thee better placed:
A mild Epicurean, form'd, at best,
To be a kind host and as good a guest,
To talk of letters, and to know by heart
One *half* the poet's, *all* the gourmand's art :
A scholar always, now and then a wit,
And gentle when digestion may permit ;—
But not to govern lands enslaved or free ;
The gout was martyrdom enough for thee.

XIII.

Shall noble Albion pass without a phrase
From a bold Briton in her wonted praise ?
"Arts—arms—and George—and glory, and
the isles— [smiles—
And happy Britain—wealth, and Freedom's

White cliffs, that held invasion far aloof—
Contented subjects, all alike tax-proof—
Proud Wellington, with eagle beak so curl'd,
That nose, the hook where he suspends the world! * [yet
And Waterloo—and trade—and—(hush! not
A syllable of imposts or of debt)—
And ne'er (enough) lamented Castlereagh,
Whose penknife slit a goose-quill t'other day—
And "pilots who have weather'd every storm," — [Reform).
(But, no, not even for rhyme's sake, name
These are the themes thus sung so oft before,
Methinks we need not sing them any more;
Found in so many volumes far and near,
There's no occasion you should find them here.
Yet something may remain perchance to chime
With reason, and, what's stranger still, with rhyme.
Even this thy genius, Canning! may permit,
Who, bred a statesman, still was born a wit,
And never, even in that dull House, couldst tame
To unleaven'd prose thine own poetic flame;
Our last, our best, our only orator,
Even I can praise thee—Tories do no more:
Nay, not so much;—they hate thee, man, because
Thy spirit less upholds them than it awes.
The hounds will gather to their huntsman's hollo, [follow;
And where he leads the duteous pack will
But not for love mistake their yelling cry;
Their yelp for game is not an eulogy;
Less faithful far than the four-footed pack,
A dubious scent would lure the bipeds back.
Thy saddle-girths are not yet quite secure,
Nor royal stallion's feet extremely sure;
The unwieldy old white horse is apt at last
To stumble, kick, and now and then stick fast
With his great self and rider in the mud;
But what of that? the animal shows blood.

XIV.

Alas, the country! how shall tongue or pen
Bewail her now *un*country gentlemen?
The last to bid the cry of warfare cease,
The first to make a malady of peace.
For what were all these country patriots born?
To hunt, and vote, and raise the price of corn?
But corn, like every mortal thing, must fall,
Kings, conquerors, and markets most of all.
And must ye fall with every ear of grain?
Why would you trouble Buonaparte's reign?
He was your great Triptolemus; his vices
Destroy'd but realms, and still maintain'd your prices;
He amplified to every lord's content
The grand agrarian alchymy, high *rent*.
Why did the tyrant stumble on the Tartars,
And lower wheat to such desponding quarters?
Why did you chain him on you isle so lone?
The man was worth much more upon his throne.

* "Naso suspendit adunco."—HORACE.
The Roman applies it to one who merely was imperious to his acquaintance.

True, blood and treasure boundlessly were spilt,
But what of that? the Gaul may bear the guilt;
But bread was high, the farmer paid his way,
And acres told upon the appointed day.
But where is now the goodly audit ale?
The purse-proud tenant, never known to fail?
The farm which never yet was left on hand?
The marsh reclaim'd to most improving land?
The impatient hope of the expiring lease?
The doubling rental? What an evil's peace!
In vain the prize excites the ploughman's skill,
In vain the Commons pass their patriot bill;
The *landed interest*—(you may understand
The phrase much better leaving out the *land*)— [shore,
The land self-interest groans from shore to
For fear that plenty should attain the poor.
Up, up again, ye rents! exalt your notes,
Or else the ministry will lose their votes,
And patriotism, so delicately nice,
Her loaves will lower to the market-price;
For ah! "the loaves and fishes," once so high,
Are gone—their oven closed, their ocean dry,
And nought remains of all the millions spent,
Excepting to grow moderate and content.
They who are not so, *had* their turn—and turn
About still flows from Fortune's equal urn;
Now let their virtue be its own reward,
And share the blessings which themselves prepared.
See these inglorious Cincinnati swarm,
Farmers of war, dictators of the farm;
Their ploughshare was the sword in hireling hands,
Their fields manured by gore of other lands;
Safe in their barns, these Sabine tillers sent
Their brethren out to battle—why? for rent!
Year after year they voted cent. per cent.,
Blood, sweat, and tear-wrung millions—why? for rent!
They roar'd, they dined, they drank, they swore, they meant [rent!
To die for England—why then live?—for
The peace has made one general malcontent
Of these high-market patriots; war was rent!
Their love of country, millions all misspent,
How reconcile? by reconciling rent!
And will they not repay the treasures lent?
No; down with everything, and up with rent!
Their good, ill, health, wealth, joy, or discontent,
Being, end, aim, religion—rent, rent, rent!
Thou sold'st thy birthright, Esau! for a mess;
Thou should'st have gotten more, or eaten less; [mands
Now thou hast swill'd thy pottage, thy demesnes
Are idle; Israel says the bargain stands.
Such, landlords! was your appetite for war,
And gorged with blood, you grumble at a scar!
What! would they spread their earthquake even o'er cash? [crash?
And when land grumbles, bid firm paper
So rent may rise, bid bank and nation fall,
And found on 'Change a *Funding* Hospital!

o, Mother Church, while all religion writhes,
ike Niobe, weeps o'er her offspring, Tithes ;
he prelates go to—where the saints have
nd proud pluralities subside to one ; [gone,
hurch, state, and faction wrestle in the dark,
oss'd by the deluge in their common ark.
norn of her bishops, banks, and dividends,
nother Babel soars—but Britain ends.
nd why? to pamper the self-seeking wants,
nd prop the hill of these agrarian ants.
Go to these ants, thou sluggard, and be
wise";
lmire their patience through each sacrifice,
ill taught to feel the lesson of their pride,
he price of taxes and of homicide ;
lmire their justice, which would fain deny
he debt of nations :—pray, *who made it high?*

XV.

r turn to sail between these shifting rocks,
he new Symplegades—the crushing Stocks,
here Midas might again his wish behold
real paper or imagined gold.
hat magic palace of Alcina shows
ore wealth than Britain ever had to lose,
ere all her atoms of unleaven'd ore,
nd all her pebbles from Pactolus' shore.
here Fortune plays, while Rumor holds the
stake,
nd the world trembles to bid brokers break.
ow rich is Britain ! not indeed in mines,
r peace, or plenty, corn or oil, or wines ;
o land of Canaan, full of milk and honey,
or (save in paper shekels) ready money :
ut let us not to own the truth refuse,
as ever Christian land so rich in Jews?
hose parted with their teeth to good King
John, [own ;
nd now, ye kings! they kindly draw your
ll states, all things, all sovereigns they con-
trol,
nd waft a loan "from Indus to the pole."
he banker—broker—baron—brethren, speed
o aid these bankrupt tyrants in their need.
or these alone : Columbia feels no less
resh speculations follow each success ;
nd philanthropic Israel deigns to drain
er mild per-centage from exhausted Spain.
ot mild Abraham's seed can Russia
march ; [arch.
is gold, not steel, that rears the conqueror's
wo Jews, a chosen people, can command
every realm their scripture-promised
land— [hold
wo Jews keep down the Romans, and up-
he accursed Hun, more brutal than of old :
wo Jews—but not Samaritans—direct
he world, with all the spirit of their sect.
hat is the happiness of earth to them?
congress forms their "New Jerusalem,"
here baronies and orders both invite—
h, holy Abraham! dost thou see the sight?
hy followers mingling with these royal swine,
ho spit not "on their Jewish gaberdine,"
ut honor them as portion of the show—
Where now, oh, Pope! is thy forsaken toe?
Could it not favor Judah with some kicks?
Or has it ceased to "kick against the pricks?")
On Shylock's shore behold them stand afresh,
To cut from nations' hearts their "pound of
flesh."

XVI.

Strange sight this Congress! destined to unite
All that's incongruous, all that's opposite.
I speak not of the sovereigns—they're alike,
A common coin as ever mint could strike ;
But those who sway the puppets, pull the
strings,
Have more of motley than their heavy kings.
Jews, authors, generals, charlatans, combine,
While Europe wonders at the vast design :
There Metternich, power's foremost parasite,
Cajoles : there Wellington forgets to fight ;
There Chateaubriand forms new books of
martyrs ;*
And subtle Greeks intrigue for stupid Tartars;
There Montmorenci, the sworn foe to charters,
Turns a diplomatist of great éclat,
To furnish articles for the "Débats";
Of war so certain—yet not quite so sure
As his dismissal in the "Moniteur."
Alas! how could his cabinet thus err!
Can peace be worth an ultra-minister?
He falls indeed, perhaps to rise again,
"Almost as quickly as he conquer'd Spain."

XVII.

Enough of this—a sight more mournful woos
The averted eye of the reluctant muse.
The imperial daughter, the imperial bride,
The imperial victim—sacrifice to pride ;
The mother of the hero's hope, the boy,
The young Astyanax of modern Troy ;†
The still pale shadow of the loftiest queen
The earth hath yet to see, or e'er hath seen ;
She flits amidst the phantoms of the hour,
The theme of pity, and the wreck of power.
Oh, cruel mockery! Could not Austria spare
A daughter? What did France's widow there?
Her fitter place was by St. Helen's wave,
Her only throne is in Napoleon's grave.
But, no—she still must hold a petty reign,
Flank'd by her formidable chamberlain ;‡
The martial Argus, whose not hundred eyes
Must watch her through these paltry pageant-
ries. [in vain,
What though she share no more, and shared
A sway surpassing that of Charlemagne,
Which swept from Moscow to the southern
seas!
Yet still she rules the pastoral realm of cheese,
Where Parma views the traveller resort,
To note the trappings of her mimic court.

* Monsieur Chateaubriand, who has not forgotten the author in the minister, received a handsome compliment at Verona from a literary sovereign: "Ah! Monsieur C., are you related to that Chateaubriand who—who—who has written something!" (ecrit quelque chose!) It is said that the author of Atala repented him for a moment of his legitimacy.

† The Duke de Reichstadt, Napoleon's son.

‡ Count Neipperg, chamberlain and second husband to Maria Louisa.

But she appears! Verona sees her shorn
Of all her beams—while nations gaze and mourn—
Ere yet her husband's ashes have had time
To chill in their inhospitable clime;
(If e'er those awful ashes can grow cold;—
But no,—their embers soon will burst the mould;) [cine's,
She comes!—the Andromache (but not Ra-
Nor Homer's,)—Lo! on Pyrrhus' arm she leans!
Yes! the right arm, yet red from Waterloo,
Which cut her lord's half-shatter'd sceptre through,
Is offer'd and accepted? Could a slave
Do more? or less?—and *he* in his new grave!
Her eye, her cheek, betray no inward strife,
And the *ex*-empress grows as *ex* a wife!
So much for human ties in royal breasts!
Why spare men's feelings, when their own are jests?

XVIII.

But tired of foreign follies, I turn home,
And sketch the group—the picture's yet to come.
My muse 'gan weep, but ere a tear was spilt,
She caught Sir William Curtis in a kilt!
While throng'd the chiefs of every Highland clan
To hail their brother, Vich Ian Alderman!
Guildhall grows Gael, and echoes with Erse roar,
While all the Common Council cry "Claymore!"
To see proud Albyn's tartans as a belt
Gird the gross surloin of a city Celt,
She burst into a laughing so extreme,
That I awoke,—and lo! it was *no* dream!
Here, reader, will we pause:—if there's no harm in ["Carmen."
This first—you'll have, perhaps, a second

THE BLUES:

A LITERARY ECLOGUE.

1822.

"Nimium ne crede colori."—VIRGIL.

O trust not, ye beautiful creatures, to hue,
Though your hair were as red as your stockings are blue.

ECLOGUE THE FIRST.

London.—Before the Door of a Lecture Room. Enter Tracy, *meeting* Inkel.

Ink. You're too late.
Tra. Is it over?
Ink. Nor will be this hour.
But the benches are cramm'd like a garden in flower, [it the fashion;
With the pride of our belles, who have made
So, instead of "beaux arts," we may say "la *belle* passion" [in
For learning, which lately has taken the lead
The world, and set all the fine gentlemen reading. [out my patience
Tra. I know it too well, and have worn
With studying to study your new publications.
There's Vamp, Scamp, and Mouthy, and Wordsworth and Co.
With their damnable——
Ink. Hold, my good friend, do you know Whom you speak to?
Tra. Right well, boy, and so does "the Row":
You're an author—a poet— [
Ink. And think you that I
Can stand tamely in silence, to hear you decry The Muses?
Tra. Excuse me: I meant no offence
To the Nine; though the number who make some pretence
To their favors is such——but the subject to drop,
I am just piping hot from a publisher's shop,
(Next door to the pastry-cook's; so that when I
Cannot find the new volume I wanted to buy
On the bibliopole's shelves, it is only two paces, [places:)
As one finds every author in one of those
Where I just had been skimming a charming critique,
So studded with wit, and so sprinkled with Greek!
Where your friend—you know who—has just got such a threshing,
That it is, as the phrase goes, extremely "*re*-
What a beautiful word! [*freshing.*"
Ink. Very true; 'tis so soft
And so cooling—they use it a little too oft;
And the papers have got it at last—but no
So they've cut up our friend, then? [matter.
Tra. Not left him a tatter—
Not a rag of his present or past reputation,
Which they call a disgrace to the age and the nation.
Ink. I'm sorry to hear this! for friendship, you know— [minate so.
Our poor friend!—but I thought it would ter-
Our friendship is such, I'll read nothing to shock it. [pocket?
You don't happen to have the Review in your
Tra. No; I left a round dozen of authors and others [brother's)
(Very sorry, no doubt, since the cause is a
All scrambling and jostling, like so many imps, [glimpse.
And on fire with impatience to get the next
Ink. Let us join them. [ture?
Tra. What, won't you return to the lec-

nk. Why, the place is so cramm'd, there's
not room for a spectre. [surd—
sides, our friend Scamp is to-day so ab-
Tra. How can you know that till you hear
him?
nk. I heard
ote enough; and, to tell you the truth, my
retreat [heat.
s from his vile nonsense, no less than the
Tra. I have had no great loss, then?
nk. Loss!—such a palaver!
inoculate sooner my wife with the slaver
a dog when gone rabid, than listen two
hours [pours,
the torrent of trash which around him he
up'd up with such effort, disgorged with
such labor, [one's neighbor.
t——come—do not make me speak ill of
Tra. I make you!
nk. Yes, you! I said nothing until
compell'd me, by speaking the truth——
Tra. *To speak ill!*
hat your deduction?
nk. When speaking of Scamp ill,
rtainly *follow, not set* an example.
fellow's a fool, an impostor, a zany.
Tra. And the crowd of to-day shows that
one fool makes many.
we two will be wise.
nk. Pray, then, let us retire.
Tra. I would, but——
nk. There must be attraction much higher
n Scamp, or the Jew's harp he nicknames
call *you* to this hot bed. [his lyre,
Tra. I own it—'tis true—
lir lady——
nk. A spinster?
Tra. Miss Lilac!
nk. The Blue!
heiress?
Tra. The angel!
nk. The devil! why, man,
y get out of this hobble as fast as you can.
wed with Miss Lilac! 'twould be your
perdition:
s a poet, a chemist, a mathematician.
Tra. I say she's an angel.
nk. Say rather an *angle.*
ou and she marry, you'll certainly wran-
gle.
y she's a Blue, man, as blue as the ether.
Tra. And is that any cause for not com-
ing together?
nk. Humph! I can't say I know any
happy alliance
ch has lately sprung up from a wedlock
with science. [cerning
s so learned in all things, and fond of con-
lself in all matters connected with learn-
ing,
t——
Tra. What? [tongue;
nk. I perhaps may as well hold my
there's five hundred people can tell you
you're wrong. [Jew.
Tra. You forget Lady Lilac's as rich as a
Ink. Is it miss or the cash of mamma you
pursue? [something of both.
Tra. Why, Jack, I'll be frank with you—
The girl's a fine girl.
Ink. And you feel nothing loth
To her good lady-mother's reversion; and yet
Her life is as good as your own, I will bet.
Tra. Let her live, and as long as she likes;
I demand [and hand.
Nothing more than the heart of her daughter
Ink. Why, that heart's in the inkstand—
that hand on the pen. [now and then?
Tra. Apropos—Will you write me a song
Ink. To what purpose? [prose
Tra. You know, my dear friend, that in
My talent is decent, as far as it goes;
But in rhyme——
Ink. You're a terrible stick, to be sure.
Tra. I own it; and yet, in these times,
there's no lure
For the heart of the fair like a stanza or two;
And so, as I can't, will you furnish a few?
Ink. In your name? [copy them out,
Tra. In my name. I will
To slip into her hand at the very next rout.
Ink. Are you so far advanced as to hazard
Tra. Why, [this?
Do you think me subdued by a Blue-stocking's
eye,
So far as to tremble to tell her in rhyme
What I've told her in prose, at the least, as
sublime? [Muse.
Ink. *As sublime!* If it be so, no need of my
Tra. But consider, dear Inkel, she's one of
the "Blues."
Ink. As sublime!—Mr. Tracy—I've nothing
to say.
Stick to prose—As sublime!!—But I wish you
good day.
Tra. Nay, stay, my dear fellow—consider
—I'm wrong;
I own it; but, prithee, compose me the song.
Ink. *As* sublime!!
Tra. I but used the expression in haste.
Ink. That may be, Mr. Tracy, but shows
damn'd bad taste. [what
Tra. I own it—I know it—acknowledge it—
Can I say to you more?
Ink. I see what you'd be at:
You disparage my parts with insidious abuse,
Till you think you can turn them best to your
own use.
Tra. And is that not a sign I respect them?
Ink. Why that
To be sure makes a difference.
Tra. I know what is what;
And you, who're a man of the gay world no less
Than a poet of t'other, may easily guess
That I never could mean, by a word, to offend
A genius like you, and moreover, my friend.
Ink. No doubt; you by this time should
know what is due
To a man of——but come, let us shake hands.
Tra. You knew,
And you *know*, my dear fellow, how heartily I,
Whatever you publish, am ready to buy.

Ink. That's my bookseller's business; I care not for sale;
Indeed the best poems at first rather fail.*
There were Renegade's epics, and Botherby's
And my own grand romance—— [plays,
Tra. Had its full share of praise.
I myself saw it puff'd in the "Old Girl's Re-
Ink. What Review? [view."
Tra. 'Tis the English "Journal de Trev-
A clerical work of our Jesuits at home. [oux,"
Have you never yet seen it?
Ink. That pleasure's to come.
Tra. Make haste then.
Ink. Why so?
Tra. I have heard people say
That it threaten'd to give up the *ghost* t'other
Ink. Well, that is a sign of some *spirit.* [day.
Tra. No doubt.
Shall you be at the Countess of Fiddlecome's rout? [ent, as soon
Ink. I've a card, and shall go; but at pres-
As friend Scamp shall be pleased to step down from the moon [wits),
(Where he seems to be soaring in search of his
And an interval grants from his lecturing fits,
I'm engaged to the Lady Bluebottle's collation,
To partake of a luncheon and learn'd conversation:
'Tis a sort of re-union for Scamp, on the days
Of his lecture, to treat him with cold tongue and praise. [pleasant.
And I own, for my own part, that 'tis not un-
Will you go? There's Miss Lilac will also be present.
Tra. That "metal's attractive."
Ink. No doubt—to the pocket.
Tra. You should rather encourage my passion than shock it.
But let us proceed; for I think by the hum—
Ink. Very true; let us go, then, before they can come, [levée,
Or else we'll be kept here an hour at their
On the rack of cross questions, by all the blue bevy. [the drone
Hark! Zounds, they'll be on us; I know by
Of old Botherby's spouting ex-cathedrâ tone.
Ay! there he is at it. Poor Scamp! better join
Your friend, or he'll pay you back in your own coin.
Tra. All fair; 'tis but lecture for lecture.
Ink. That's clear.
But for God's sake, let's go, or the Bore will be here.
Come, come: nay, I'm off. [*Exit* Inkel.
Tra. You are right, and I'll follow;
'Tis high time for a "*Sic me servavit Apollo.*"
And yet we shall have the whole crew on our kibes,
Blues, dandies, and dowagers, and second-hand scribes, [tles
All flocking to moisten their exquisite throt-
With a glass of Madeira at Lady Bluebottle's.
[*Exit* Tracy.

END OF ECLOGUE THE FIRST.

* Southey and Sotheby are meant.

ECLOGUE THE SECOND.

An Apartment in the House of Lady Bluebottle. *A Table prepared.*

Sir Richard Bluebottle *solus.*

Was there ever a man who was married so sorry? [hurry,
Like a fool, I must needs do the thing in a
My life is reversed, and my quiet destroy'd;
My days, which once pass'd in so gentle a void, [ploy'd;
Must now, every hour of the twelve, be em-
The twelve, do I say?—of the whole twenty-four, [more?
Is there one which I dare call my own any
What with driving and visiting, dancing and dining, [bling, and shining
What with learning, and teaching, and scrib-
In science and art, I'll be cursed if I know
Myself from my wife: for although we are two,
Yet she somehow contrives that all things shall be done
In a style which proclaims us eternally one.
But the thing of all things which distresses me more [ble me sore)
Than the bills of the week (though they trou-
Is the numerous, humorous, backbiting crew
Of scribblers, wits, lecturers, white, black, and blue, [my cost—
Who are brought to my house as an inn, to
For the bill here, it seems, is defray'd by the host— [pains,
No pleasure! no leisure! no thought for my
But to hear a vile jargon which addles my brains;
A smatter and clatter, glean'd out of reviews,
By the rag, tag, and bobtail of those they call "Blues";
A rabble who know not—But soft, here they come! [be dumb.
Would to God I were deaf! as I'm not, I'll

Enter Lady Bluebottle, Miss Lilac, Lady Bluemount, Mr. Botherby, Inkel, Tracy, Miss Mazarine, *and others, with* Scamp, *the Lecturer, etc., etc.*

Lady Blueb. Ah! Sir Richard, good morning: I've brought you some friends.
Sir Rich. (*bows, and afterwards aside*). If friends, they're the first.
Lady Blueb. But the luncheon attends,
I pray ye be seated, "*sans cérémonie.*"
Mr. Scamp, you're fatigued; take your chair there next me. [*They all sit.*
Sir Rich. (*aside*). If he does, his fatigue is
Lady Blueb. Mr. Tracy— [to come.
Lady Bluemount—Miss Lilac—be pleased, pray, to place ye;
And you, Mr. Botherby—
Both. Oh, my dear Lady,
I obey.
Lady Blueb. Mr. Inkel, I ought to upbraid ye;
You were not at the lecture. [Excuse me; I was;
Tra.
But the heat forced me out in the best part—
And when— [alas!

Lady Blueb. To be sure it was broiling; ou have lost such a lecture! [but then
Both. The best of the ten.
Tra. How can you know that? there are two more.
Both. Because
defy him to beat this day's wondrous ap- he very walls shook. [plause.
Ink. Oh, if that be the test, allow our friend Scamp has this day done his best,
iss Lilac, permit me to help you:—a wing?
Miss Lil. No more, sir, I thank you. Who lectures next spring?
Both. Dick Dunder.
Ink. That, is, if he lives.
Miss Lil. And why not?
Ink. No reason whatever, save that he's a ady Bluemount! a glass of Madeira? [sot.
Lady Bluem. With pleasure.
Ink. How does your friend Wordswords, that Windermere treasure? [sings,
oes he stick to his lakes, like the leeches he nd their gatherers, as Homer sung warriors and kings?
Lady Bluem. He has just got a place.
Ink. As a footman?
Lady Bluem. For shame! or profane with your sneers so poetic a name.
Ink. Nay, I meant him no evil, but pitied his master; or the poet of pedlars 'twere, sure, no dis- aster o wear a new livery; the more, as 'tis not he first time he has turn'd both his creed and his coat.
Lady Bluem. For shame! I repeat. If Sir George could but hear——
Lady Blueb. Never mind our friend Inkel; 'tis his way. [we all know, my dear,
Sir Rich. But this place——
Ink. Is perhaps like friend Scamp's, lecturer's.
Lady Bluem. Excuse me—'tis one in the "Stamps":
e is made a collector.
Tra. Collector!
Sir Rich. How?
Miss Lil. What?
Ink. I shall think of him oft when I buy a new hat: here his works will appear——
Lady Bluem. Sir, they reach to the Ganges.
Ink. I shan't go so far—I can have them at
Lady Bluem. Oh fie! [Grange's.*
Miss Lil. And for shame!
Lady Bluem. You're too bad.
Both. Very good!
Lady Bluem. How good? [phrase.
Lady Blueb. He means nought—'tis his
Lady Bluem. He grows rude.
Lady Blueb. He means nothing; nay, ask him.

* Grange is or was a famous pastry-cook and fruiterer n Piccadilly.

Lady Bluem. Pray, sir! did you mean What you say?
Ink. Never mind if he did; 'twill be seen That whatever he means won't alloy what he
Both. Sir! [says.
Ink. Pray be content with your portion 'Twas in your defence. [of praise;
Both. If you please, with submission, I can make out my own.
Ink. It would be your perdition. While you live, my dear Botherby, never defend [friend. Yourself or your works; but leave both to a Apropos—Is your play then accepted at last?
Both. At last? [had pass'd
Ink. Why, I thought—that's to say—there A few green-room whispers, which hinted,— you know That the taste of the actors at best is so-so.
Both. Sir, the green-room's in rapture, and so's the Committee. ["our pity
Ink. Ay—yours are the plays for exciting And fear," as the Greek says: for "purging the mind,"
I doubt if you'll leave us an equal behind.
Both. I have written the prologue, and meant to have pray'd For a spice of your wit in an epilogue's aid.
Ink. Well, time enough yet, when the play's Is it cast yet? [to be play'd.
Both. The actors are fighting for parts, As is usual in that most litigious of arts.
Lady Blueb. We'll all make a party, and go the *first* night.
Tra. And you promised the epilogue, Inkel.
Ink. Not quite. However, to save my friend Botherby trouble, I'll do what I can, though my pains must be
Tra. Why so? [double.
Ink. To do justice to what goes before.
Both. Sir, I'm happy to say, I've no fears on that score. Your parts, Mr. Inkel, are——
Ink. Never mind *mine;* Stick to those of your play, which is quite your own line. [think, sir, of rhymes?
Lady Bluem. You're a fugitive writer, I
Ink. Yes, ma'am; and a fugitive reader sometimes. On Wordswords, for instance, I seldom alight, Or on Mouthey, his friend, without taking to flight. [but time and posterity
Lady Bluem. Sir, your taste is too common; Will right these great men, and this age's se- Become its reproach. [verity
Ink. I've no sort of objection, So I'm not of the party to take the infection.
Lady Blueb. Perhaps you have doubts that they ever will *take?* [lake
Ink. Not at all; on the contrary, those of the Have taken already, and still will continue To take—what they can, from a groat to a guinea, Of pension or place;—but the subject's a bore.
Lady Bluem. Well, sir, the time's coming.
Ink. Scamp! don't you feel sore?

What say you to this?
Scamp. They have merit, I own;
Though their system's absurdity keeps it unknown. [lectures?
Ink. Then why not unearth it in one of your
Scamp. It is only time past which comes under my strictures.
Lady Blueb. Come, a truce with all tartness;—the joy of my heart
Is to see Nature's triumph o'er all that is art.
Wild Nature!—Grand Shakspeare!
Both. And down Aristotle!
Lady Bluem. Sir George* thinks exactly with Lady Bluebottle: [dear Bard,
And my Lord Seventy-four,† who protects our
And who gave him his place, has the greatest regard [asses,
For the poet, who, singing of pedlars and
Has found out the way to dispense with Par-
Tra. And you, Scamp!— [nassus.
Scamp. I needs must confess I'm embarrass'd. [so harass'd
Ink. Don't call upon Scamp, who's already
With old *schools*, and new *schools*, and no *schools*, and all *schools*.
Tra. Well, one thing is certain, that *some* must be fools.
I should like to know who.
Ink. And I should not be sorry
To know who are *not*:—it would save us some worry. [nothing control
Lady Blueb. A truce with remark, and let
This "feast of our reason and flow of the soul."
Oh! my dear Mr. Botherby! sympathize!—I
Now feel such a rapture I'm ready to fly.
I feel so elastic—"*so buoyant—so buoyant!*"‡
Ink. Tracy! open the window.
Tra. I wish her much joy on't.
Both. For God's sake, my Lady Bluebottle, check not
This gentle emotion, so seldom our lot [lifts
Upon earth. Give it way: 'tis an impulse which
Our spirits from earth; the sublimest of gifts;
For which poor Prometheus was chain'd to his mountain:
'Tis the source of all sentiment—feeling's true fountain;
'Tis the Vision of Heaven upon Earth: 'tis the gas [pass,
Of the soul: 'tis the seizing of shades as they
And making them substance; 'tis something divine!— [more wine?
Ink. Shall I help you, my friend, to a little
Both. I thank you; not any more, sir, till I dine. [phrey* to-day?
Ink. Apropos—Do you dine with Sir Hum-
Tra. I should think with *Duke* Humphrey was more in your way. [look
Ink. It might be of yore; but we authors now
To the Knight, as a landlord, much more than the Duke. [is,
The truth is, each writer now quite at his ease
And (except with his publisher) dines where he pleases. [Park.
But 'tis now nearly five, and I must to the
Tra. And I'll take a turn with you there till 'tis dark.
And you, Scamp—
Scamp. Excuse me! I must to my notes
For my lecture next week.
Ink. He must mind whom he quotes
Out of "Elegant Extracts."
Lady Blueb. Well, now we break up;
But remember Miss Diddle invites us to sup.
Ink. Then at two hours past midnight we all meet again, [pagne!
For the sciences, sandwiches, hock, and cham-
Tra. And the sweet lobster salad!
Both. I honor that meal,
For 'tis then that our feelings most genuinely—feel. [yond question:
Ink. True: feeling is truest *then*, far be-
I wish to the gods 'twas the same with digestion! [for one moment of feeling
Lady Blueb. Pshaw!—never mind that;
Is worth—God knows what.
Ink. 'Tis at least worth concealing
For itself, or what follows——But here comes your carriage.
Sir Rich. [*Aside*]. I wish all these people were d—d with *my* marriage!
[*Exeunt.*

END OF ECLOGUE THE SECOND.

* Sir George Beaumont. [EDIT.]

† Earl of Lonsdale, who offered to equip a 74 man-of-war at his own cost at the close of the American war. [EDIT.]

‡ Fact from life, with the words.

* Sir Humphrey Davy. [EDIT.]

CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE:

A ROMAUNT.

"L'univers est une espece de livre, dont on n'a lu que la premiere page quand on n'a vu que son pays. J'en ai feuilleté un assez grand nombre, que j'ai trouve egalement mauvaises. Cet examen ne m'a point ete infructueux. Je haissais ma patrie. Toutes les impertinences des peuples divers, parmi lesquels j'ai vecu, m'ont reconcilie avec elle. Quand je n'aurais tire d'autre benefice de mes voyages que celui-la, je n'en regretterais ni les frais ni les fatigues."—LE COSMOPOLITE.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST AND SECOND CANTOS.

THE following poem was written, for the most part, amidst the scenes which it attempts to describe. It was begun in Albania; and the parts relative to Spain and Portugal were composed from the author's observations in those countries. This much it may be necessary to state for the correctness of the descriptions. The scenes attempted to be sketched are in Spain, Portugal, Epirus, Acarnania, and Greece. There, for the present, the poem stops: its reception will determine whether the author may venture to conduct his readers to the capital of the East, through Ionia and Phrygia: these two cantos are merely experimental.

A fictitious character is introduced for the sake of giving some connection to the piece; which, however, makes no pretensions to regularity. It has been suggested to me by friends, on whose opinions I set a high

e, that in this fictitious character, "Childe Harold," I may incur the suspicion of having intended some real onage: this I beg leave, once for all, to disclaim. Harold is a child of imagination, for the purpose I have d. In some very trivial particulars, and those merely local, there might be grounds for such a notion; but e main points, I should hope, none whatever.

t is almost superfluous to mention that the appellation "Childe," as "Childe Waters," "Childe Childers," ms used as more consonant with the old structure of versification which I have adopted. The "Good Night," e beginning of the first canto, was suggested by "Lord Maxwell's Good Night," in the "Border Minstrelsy," ed by Mr. Scott.

With the different poems which have been published on Spanish subjects, there may be found some slight cidence in the first part which treats of the Peninsula: but it can only be casual, as, with the exception of a concluding stanzas, the whole of this poem was written in the Levant.

he stanza of Spenser, according to one of our most successful poets, admits of every variety. Dr. Beattie ses the following observation:—"Not long ago, I began a poem in the style and stanza of Spenser, in which I ose to give full scope to my inclination, and be either droll or pathetic, descriptive or sentimental, tender or ical, as the humor strikes me: for, if I mistake not, the measure which I have adopted admits equally of all kinds of composition."* Strengthened in my opinion by such authority, and by the example of some in the est order of Italian poets, I shall make no apology for attempts at similar variations in the following compoa; satisfied that, if they are unsuccessful, their failure must be in the execution rather than in the design, ioned by the practice of Ariosto, Thomson and Beattie.

ONDON, February, 1812.

ADDITION TO THE PREFACE.

e now waited till almost all our periodical journals have distributed their usual portion of criticism. To the ce of the generality of their criticisms I have nothing to object: it would ill become me to quarrel with their slight decree of censure, when, perhaps, if they had been less kind, they had been more candid. Returning, efore, to all and each my best thanks for their liberality, on one point alone shall I venture an observation. ngst the many objections justly urged to the very indifferent character of the "vagrant Childe" (whom, withstanding many hints to the contrary, I shall maintain to be a fictitious personage), it has been stated that es the anachronism, he is very unknightly, as the times of the Knights were times of Love, Honor, and so . Now, it so happens that the good old times, when "l'amour du bon vieux tems, l'amour antique" flourre-Palaye, passim, and more particularly vol. ii. p. 69. The vows of chivalry were no better kept than any r vows whatsoever; and the songs of the Troubadours were not more decent, and certainly were much less ed, than those of Ovid. The "Cours d'amour, parlemens d'amour, ou de courtesie et de gentilesse," had more of love than of courtesy or gentleness. See Roland on the same subject with Sainte-Palaye. Whatother objection may be urged to that most unamiable personage, Childe Harold, he was so far perfectly ntly in his attributes.—"No waiter but a knight templar."† By the by, I fear that Sir Tristrem and Sir Lan- were no better than they should be, although very poetical personages and true knights, "sans peur," gh not "sans reproche." If the story of the institution of the "Garter" be not a fable, the knights of that have for several centuries borne the badge of a Countess of Salisbury, of indifferent memory. So much for alry. Burke need not have regretted that its days are over, though Marie-Antoinette was quite as chaste as t of those in whose honor lances were shivered and knights unhorsed.

efore the days of Bayard, and down to those of Sir Joseph Banks (the most chaste and celebrated of ancient modern times), few exceptions will be found to this statement; and I fear a little investigation will teach us o regret these monstrous mummeries of the middle ages.

now leave "Childe Harold" to live his day, such as he is. It had been more agreeable, and certainly more t to have drawn an amiable character. It had been easy to varnish over his faults, to make him do more and ss less; but he never was intended as an example, further than to show that early perversion of mind and ls leads to satiety of past pleasures and disappointment in new ones, and that even the beauties of nature he stimulus of travel (except ambition, the most powerful of all excitements) are lost on a soul so consti-, or rather misdirected. Had I proceeded with the poem, this character would have deepened as he drew to lose: for the outline which I once meant to fill up for him was, with some exceptions, the sketch of a rn Timon, perhaps a poetical Zeluco.

ONDON, 1813.

TO IANTHE.‡

OT in those climes where I have late been straying,
hough Beauty long hath there been matchless deem'd,
pt in those visions to the heart displaying
orms which it sighs but to have only dream'd,
ath aught like thee in truth or fancy seen'd:
Or, having seen thee, shall I vainly seek
o paint those charms which varied as they beam'd—
o such as see thee not, my words were weak;
hose who gaze on thee, what language could they speak?

n! may'st thou ever be what now thou art,
or unbeseem the promise of thy spring,
fair in form, as warm yet pure in heart,
ve's image upon earth without his wing,
d guileless beyond Hope's imagining!
nd surely she who now so fondly rears
y youth, in thee, thus hourly brightening,
holds the rainbow of her future years,
Before whose heavenly hues all sorrow disappears.

Young Peri of the West!—'tis well for me
My years already doubly number thine;
My loveless eyes unmoved may gaze on thee,
And safely view thy ripening beauties shine:
Happy, I ne'er shall see them in decline;
Happier, that while all younger hearts shall bleed,
Mine shall escape the doom thine eyes assign
To those whose admiration shall succeed,
But mix'd with pangs to Love's even loveliest hours decreed.

Oh! let that eye, which, wild as the gazelle's,
Now brightly bold or beautifully shy,
Wins as it wanders, dazzle where it dwells,
Glance o'er this page, nor to my verse deny
That smile for which my breast might vainly sigh,
Could I to thee be ever more than friend:

* Beattie's Letters.

† "The Rovers, or the Double Arrangement."

‡ Lady Charlotte Harley, daughter of the Earl of Oxford, afterwards Lady C. Bacon.

This, much, dear maid, accord ; nor question why
To one so young my strain I would commend,
But bid me with my wreath one matchless lily blend.

Such is thy name with this my verse entwined ;
And long as kinder eyes a look shall cast
On Harold's page, Ianthe's here enshrined.
Shall thus be first beheld, forgotten last :
My days once number'd, should this homage past
Attract thy fairy fingers near the lyre
Of him who hail'd thee, loveliest as thou wast,
Such is the most my memory may desire ;
Though more than Hope can claim, could Friendship less require ?

CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

1812.

CANTO THE FIRST.

I.

Oh, thou ! in Hellas deem'd of heavenly birth,
Muse! form'd or fabled at the minstrel's will!
Since shamed full oft by later lyres on earth,
Mine dares not call thee from thy sacred hill ;
Yet there I've wander'd by thy vaunted rill ;
Yes ! sigh'd o'er Delphi's long-deserted shrine,*
Where, save that feeble fountain, all is still;
Nor mote my shell awake the weary Nine
To grace so plain a tale—this lowly lay of mine.

II.

Whilome in Albion's isle there dwelt a youth,
Who ne in virtue's ways did take delight ;
But spent his days in riot most uncouth,
And vex'd with mirth the drowsy ear of Night.
Ah, me ! in sooth he was a shameless wight,
Sore given to revel and ungodly glee ;
Few earthly things found favor in his sight
Save concubines and carnal companie,
And flaunting wassailers of high and low degree.

III.

Childe Harold was he hight :—but whence his name
And lineage long, it suits me not to say ;
Suffice it, that perchance they were of fame,
And had been glorious in another day :
But one sad losel soils a name for aye,
However mighty in the olden time ;
Nor all that heralds rake from coffin'd clay,
Nor florid prose, nor honey'd lies of rhyme,
Can blazon evil deeds, or consecrate a crime.

IV.

Childe Harold bask'd him in the noontide sun,
Disporting there like any other fly,
Nor deem'd before his little day was done
One blast might chill him into misery.
But long ere scarce a third of his pass'd by,
Worse than adversity the Childe befell ;
He felt the fullness of satiety :
Then loathed he in his native land to dwell,
Which seem'd to him more lone than Eremite's sad cell.

V.

For he through Sin's long labyrinth had run,
Nor made atonement when he did amiss,
Had sigh'd to many, though he loved but one,
And that loved one, alas, could ne'er be his.
Ah, happy she ! to 'scape from him whose kiss
Had been pollution unto aught so chaste ;
Who soon had left her charms for vulgar bliss,
And spoil'd her goodly lands to gild his waste,
Nor calm domestic peace had ever deign'd to taste.

VI.

And now Childe Harold was sore sick at heart,
And from his fellow bacchanals would flee ;
'Tis said, at times the sullen tear would start,
But Pride congeal'd the drop within his e'e ;
Apart he stalk'd in joyless reverie,
And from his native land resolved to go,
And visit scorching climes beyond the sea :
With pleasure drugg'd, he almost long'd for woe,
And e'en for change of scene would seek the shades below.

VII.

The Childe departed from his father's hall ;
It was a vast and venerable pile ;
So old, it seemèd only not to fall,

* The little village of Castri stands partly on the site of Delphi. Along the path of the mountain, from Chrysso, are the remains of sepulchres hewn in and from the rock ; "one," said the guide, "of a king who broke his neck hunting." His Majesty had certainly chosen the fittest spot for such an achievement. A little above Castri is a cave, supposed the Pythian, of immense depth ; the upper part of it is paved, and now a cow-house. On the other side of Castri stands a Greek monastery ; some way above which is the cleft in the rock, with a range of caverns difficult of ascent, and apparently leading to the interior of the mountain, probably to the Corycian Cavern mentioned by Pausanias. From this part descend the fountain and the "Dews of Castalie."

Yet strength was pillar'd in each massy aisle.
Monastic dome! condemn'd to uses vile!
Where Superstition once had made her den,
Now Paphian girls were known to sing and
smile; [come agen,
And monks might deem their time was
Ancient tales say true, nor wrong these holy
men.

VIII.

Yet ofttimes, in his maddest mirthful mood,
Strange pangs would flash along Childe
Harold's brow,
As if the memory of some deadly feud
Or disappointed passion lurk'd below:
But this none knew, nor haply cared to
know;
For his was not that open, artless soul
That feels relief by bidding sorrow flow;
Nor sought he friend to counsel or condole,
Whate'er his grief might be, which he could
not control.

IX.

And none did love him—though to hall and
bower
He gather'd revellers from far and near,
He knew them flatterers of the festal hour;
The heartless parasites of present cheer.
Yea! none did love him—not his lemans
dear— [care,
But pomp and power alone are woman's
And where these are light Eros finds a
feere; [glare,
Maidens, like moths, are ever caught by
And Mammon wins his way where Seraphs
might despair.

X.

Childe Harold had a mother—not forgot,
Though parting from that mother he did
shun;
A sister whom he loved, but saw her not
Before his weary pilgrimage begun:
If friends he had, he bade adieu to none,
Yet deem not thence his breast a breast of
steel;
Ye, who have known what 'tis to dote upon
A few dear objects, will in sadness feel
Such partings break the heart they fondly
hope to heal.

XI.

His house, his home, his heritage, his lands,
The laughing dames in whom he did delight,
Whose large blue eyes, fair locks and snowy
hands,
Might shake the saintship of an anchorite,
And long had fed his youthful appetite;
His goblets brimm'd with every costly wine,
And all that mote to luxury invite,
Without a sigh he left to cross the brine,
And traverse Paynim shores, and pass Earth's
central line.

XII.

The sails were fill'd, and fair the light winds
blew,
As glad to waft him from his native home;
And fast the white rocks faded from his
view,
And soon were lost in circumambient foam;
And then, it may be, of his wish to roam
Repented he, but in his bosom slept
The silent thought, nor from his lips did
come [wept,
One word of wail, whilst others sate and
And to the reckless gales unmanly moaning
kept.

XIII.

But when the sun was sinking in the sea,
He seized his harp which he at times could
string,
And strike, albeit with untaught melody,
When deem'd he no strange ear was listen-
And now his fingers o'er it he did fling, [ing;
And tuned his farewell in the dim twilight,
While flew the vessel on her snowy wing,
And fleeting shores receded from his sight,
Thus to the elements he pour'd his last "Good
Night."

Adieu, adieu! my native shore
Fades o'er the waters blue;
The night-winds sigh, the breakers roar,
And shrieks the wild sea-mew.
Yon sun that sets upon the sea
We follow in his flight;
Farewell awhile to him and thee,
My native Land—Good night!

A few short hours, and he will rise,
To give the morrow birth;
And I shall hail the main and skies,
But not my mother earth.
Deserted is my own good hall,
Its hearth is desolate;
Wild weeds are gathering on the wall,
My dog howls at the gate.

"Come hither, hither, my little page!
Why dost thou weep and wail?
Or dost thou dread the billow's rage,
Or tremble at the gale?
But dash the tear-drop from thine eye,
Our ship is swift and strong;
Our fleetest falcon scarce can fly
More merrily along."

"Let winds be shrill, let waves roll high,
I fear not wave nor wind;
Yet marvel not, Sir Childe, that I
Am sorrowful in mind;
For I have from my father gone,
A mother whom I love,
And have no friend, save these alone,
But thee—and One above.

"My father bless'd me fervently,
Yet did not much complain;
But sorely will my mother sigh
Till I come back again."
"Enough, enough, my little lad!
Such tears become thine eye;
If I thy guileless bosom had,
Mine own would not be dry.

"Come hither, hither, my staunch yeoman,
Why dost thou look so pale?
Or dost thou dread a French foeman,
Or shiver at the gale?"—
"Deem'st thou I tremble for my life?
Sir Childe, I'm not so weak;
But thinking on an absent wife
Will blanch a faithful cheek.

"My spouse and boys dwell near thy hall,
Along the bordering lake;
And when they on their father call,
What answer shall she make?"—
"Enough, enough, my yeoman good,
Thy grief let none gainsay;
But I, who am of lighter mood,
Will laugh to flee away."

For who would trust the seeming sighs
Of wife or paramour?
Fresh feeres will dry the bright blue eyes
We late saw streaming o'er.
For pleasures past I do not grieve,
Nor perils gathering near;
My greatest grief is that I leave
No thing that claims a tear.

And now I'm in the world alone,
Upon the wide, wide sea;
But why should I for others groan,
When none will sigh for me?
Perchance my dog will whine in vain,
Till fed by stranger hands;
But long ere I come back again
He'd tear me where he stands.

With thee, my bark, I'll swiftly go
Athwart the foaming brine;
Nor care what land thou bear'st me to,
So not again to mine.
Welcome, welcome, ye dark blue waves!
And when you fail my sight,
Welcome, ye deserts, and ye caves!
My native land—Good Night!

XIV.

On, on the vessel flies, the land is gone,
And winds are rude in Biscay's sleepless bay,
Four days are sped, but with the fifth, anon,
New shores descried make every bosom gay;
And Cintra's mountain greets them on their way,
And Tagus dashing onward to the deep,
His fabled golden tribute bent to pay:
And soon on board the Lusian pilots leap,
And steer 'twixt fertile shores where yet few rustics reap.

XV.

Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see [land:
What Heaven hath done for this delicious
What fruits of fragrance blush on every tree!
What goodly prospects o'er the hills expand!
But man would mar them with an impious hand: [scourge
And when the Almighty lifts His fiercest
'Gainst those who most transgress his high command, [urge
With treble vengeance will His hot shafts
Gaul's locust host, and earth from fellest foemen purge.

XVI.

What beauties doth Lisboa first unfold!
Her image floating on that noble tide,
Which poets vainly pave with sands of gold,
But now whereon a thousand keels did ride
Of mighty strength, since Albion was allied,
And to the Lusians did her aid afford:
A nation swoll'n with ignorance and pride,
Who lick, yet loathe, the hand that waves the sword [sparing lord.
To save them from the wrath of Gaul's un-

XVII.

But whoso entereth within this town,
That, sheening far, celestial seems to be,
Disconsolate will wander up and down,
'Mid many things unsightly to strange e'e;
For hut and palace show like filthily;
The dingy denizens are rear'd in dirt;
No personage of high or mean degree
Doth care for cleanness of surtout or shirt,
Though shent with Egypt's plague, unkempt, unwash'd, unhurt.

XVIII.

Poor, paltry slaves! yet born 'midst noblest scenes— [men?
Why, Nature, waste thy wonders on such
Lo! Cintra's glorious Eden intervenes
In variegated maze of mount and glen.
Ah me! what hand can pencil guide, or pen,
To follow half on which the eye dilates, [ken
Through views more dazzling unto mortal
Than those whereof such things the bard relates, [sium's gates?
Who to the awe-struck world unlock'd Ely-

XIX.

The horrid crags, by toppling convent crown'd, [steep,
The cork-trees hoar that clothe the shaggy
The mountain moss by scorching skies imbrown'd, [must weep,
The sunken glen, whose sunless shrubs
The tender azure of the unruffled deep,
The orange tints that gild the greenest bough,
The torrents that from cliff to valley leap,
The vine on high, the willow branch below,
Mix'd in one mighty scene, with varied beauty glow.

XX.

Then slowly climb the many-winding way,
And frequent turn to linger as you go,
From loftier rocks new loveliness survey,
And rest ye at "Our Lady's House of Woe";*
Where frugal monks their little relics show,

* The convent of "Our Lady of Punishment." Nossa Senora de Pena, on the summit of the rock. Below, at some distance, is the Cork Convent, where St. Honorius dug his den, over which is his epitaph. From the hills, the sea adds to the beauty of the view.

And sundry legends to the stranger tell :[lo,
Here impious men have punish'd been ; and
Deep in yon cave Honorius long did dwell,
In hope to merit Heaven by making earth a Hell.

XXI.

And here and there, as up the crags you spring, [path ;
Mark many rude-carved crosses near the
Yet deem not these devotion's offering—
These are memorials frail of murderous wrath :
For wheresoe'er the shrieking victim hath
Pour'd forth his blood beneath the assassin's knife, [lath ;
Some hand erects a cross of mouldering
And grove and glen with thousand such are rife
Throughout this purple land, where law secures not life !*

XXII.

On sloping mounds, or in the vale beneath,
Are domes where whilome kings did make repair : [breathe ;
But now the wild flowers round them only
Yet ruin'd splendor still is lingering there,
And yonder towers the Prince's palace fair :
There thou, too, Vathek !† England's wealthiest son,
Once form'd thy Paradise, as not aware
When wanton Wealth her mightiest deeds hath done, [to shun.
Meek Peace voluptuous lures was ever wont

XXIII.

Here didst thou dwell, here schemes of pleasure plan, [brow ;
Beneath yon mountain's ever beauteous
But now, as if a thing unblest by Man,
Thy fairy dwelling is as lone as thou !
Here giant weeds a passage scarce allow
To halls deserted, portals gaping wide ;
Fresh lessons to the thinking bosom, how
Vain are the pleasaunces on earth supplied;
Swept into wrecks anon by Time's ungentle tide.

XXIV.

Behold the hall where chiefs were late convened !‡
Oh ! dome displeasing unto British eye !
With diadem hight foolscap, lo ! a fiend,
There sits in parchment robe array'd, and by
A little fiend that scoffs incessantly,
His side is hung a seal and sable scroll,
Where blazon'd glare names known to chivalry,
And sundry signatures adorn the roll,
Whereat the Urchin points and laughs with all his soul.

XXV.

Convention is the dwarfish demon styled
That foil'd the knights in Marialva's dome:
Of brains (if brains they had) he them beguiled,
And turn'd a nation's shallow joy to gloom.
Here Folly dash'd to earth the victor's plume,
And Policy regain'd what arms had lost :
For chiefs like ours in vain may laurels bloom,
Woe to the conquering, not the conquered host, [coast.
Since baffled Triumph droops on Lusitania's

XXVI.

And ever since that martial synod met,
Britannia sickens, Cintra ! at thy name ;
And folks in office at the mention fret,
And fain would blush, if blush they could, for shame.
How will posterity the deed proclaim !
Will not our own and fellow-nations sneer,
To view these champions cheated of their fame,
By foes in fight o'erthrown, yet victors here,
Where Scorn her finger points through many a coming year ?

XXVII.

So deem'd the Childe, as o'er the mountains
Did take his way in solitary guise : [he
Sweet was the scene, yet soon he thought to flee,
More restless than the swallow in the skies:
Though here awhile he learn'd to moralize,
For Meditation fix'd at times on him ;
And conscious Reason whisper'd to despise
His early youth misspent in maddest whim;
But as he gazed on truth, his aching eyes grew dim.

XXVIII.

To horse ! to horse ! he quits, forever quits
A scene of peace, though soothing to his
Again he rouses from his moping fits, [soul;
But seeks not now the harlot and the bowl.
Onward he flies, nor fix'd as yet the goal
Where he shall rest him on his pilgrimage;
And o'er him many changing scenes must roll,
Ere toil his thirst for travel can assuage,
Or he shall calm his breast, or learn experience sage.

XXIX.

Yet Mafra shall one moment claim delay,
Where dwelt of yore the Lusians' luckless queen ; [ray,
And church and court did mingle their ar-

* It is a well-known fact that in the year 1809 the assassinations in the streets of Lisbon and its vicinity were not confined by the Portuguese to their countrymen, but that Englishmen were daily butchered : and so far from redress being obtained, we were requested not to interfere if we perceived any compatriot defending himself against his allies. I was once stopped in the way to the theatre at eight o'clock in the evening, when the streets were not more empty than they generally are at that hour, opposite to an open shop, and in a carriage with a friend : had we not fortunately been armed, I have not the least doubt that we should have "adorned a tale" instead of telling one.

† Mr. Beckford, author of Vathek.

‡ The Convention of Cintra was signed in the palace of the Marchese Marialva.

And mass and revel were alternate seen;
Lordlings and freres—ill-sorted fry, I ween!
But here the Babylonian whore had built*
A dome, where flounts she in such glorious sheen, [spilt,
That men forget the blood which she hath
And bow the knee to Pomp that loves to garnish guilt.

XXX.

O'er vales that teem with fruit, romantic hills, [race!)
(Oh that such hills upheld a free-born
Whereon to gaze the eye with joyaunce fills,
Childe Harold wends through many a pleasant place. [chase,
Though sluggards deem it but a foolish
And marvel men should quit their easy chair, [trace,
The toilsome way, and long, long league to
Oh, there is sweetness in the mountain air,
And life, that bloated Ease can never hope to share.

XXXI.

More bleak to view the hills at length recede,
And, less luxuriant, smoother vales extend:
Immense horizon-bounded plains succeed!
Far as the eye discerns, withouten end,
Spain's realms appear, whereon her shepherds tend [trader knows—
Flocks, whose rich fleece right well the
Now must the pastor's arm his lambs defend;
For Spain is compass'd by unyielding foes,
And all must shield their all, or share Subjection's woes.

XXXII.

Where Lusitania and her Sister meet,
Deem ye what bounds the rival realms divide?
Or e'er the jealous queens of nations greet,
Doth Tayo interpose his mighty tide?
Or dark Sierras rise in craggy pride?
Or fence of art, like China's vasty wall?—
Ne barrier wall, ne river deep and wide,
Ne horrid crags, nor mountains dark and tall, [from Gaul.
Rise like the rocks that part Hispania's land

XXXIII.

But these between a silver streamlet glides,
And scarce a name distinguisheth the brook,
Though rival kingdoms press its verdant sides.
Here leans the idle shepherd on his crook,
And vacant on the rippling waves doth look,
That peaceful still 'twixt bitterest foemen flow;
For proud each peasant as the noblest duke:
Well doth the Spanish hind the difference know [low.*
'Twixt him and Lusian slave, the lowest of the

XXXIV.

But ere the mingling bounds have far been pass'd,
Dark Guadiana rolls his power along
In sullen billows, murmuring and vast,
So noted ancient roundelays among.
Whilome upon his banks did legions throng
Of Moor and Knight, in mailed splendor drest; [the strong;
Here ceased the swift their race, here sunk
The Paynim turban and the Christian crest
Mix'd on the bleeding stream, by floating hosts oppress'd.

XXXV.

Oh, lovely Spain! renown'd, romantic land!
Where is that standard which Pelagio bore,
When Cava's† traitor-sire first called the band [Gothic gore?
That dyed thy mountain-streams with
Where are those bloody banners which of yore
Waved o'er thy sons, victorious to the gale,
And drove at last the spoilers to their shore?
Red gleam'd the cross, and waned the crescent pale, [matrons' wail.
While Afric's echoes thrill'd with Moorish

XXXVI.

Teems not each ditty with the glorious tale?
A! such, alas, the hero's amplest fate!
When granite moulders, and when records fail,
A peasant's plaint prolongs his dubious date.
Pride! bend thine eye from heaven to thine estate,
See how the Mighty shrink into a song!
Can Volume, Pillar, Pile, preserve thee great? [tongue,
Or must thou trust Tradition's simple
When Flattery sleeps with thee, and History does thee wrong?

XXXVII.

Awake, ye sons of Spain! awake! advance!
Lo! Chivalry, your ancient goddess, cries,
But wields not, as of old, her thirsty lance,
Nor shakes her crimson plumage in the skies:
Now on the smoke of blazing bolts she flies,
And speaks in thunder through yon engine's roar!
In every peal she calls—"Awake, arise!"
Say, is her voice more feeble than of yore,

* The extent of Mafra is prodigious; it contains a palace, convent, and most superb church. The six organs are the most beautiful I ever beheld, in point of decoration: we did not hear them, but were told that their tones were correspondent to their splendor. Mafra is termed the Escurial of Portugal.

* As I found the Portuguese, so I have characterized them. That they are since improved, at least in courage, is evident. The late exploits of Lord Wellington have effaced the follies of Cintra. He has indeed done wonders; he has perhaps changed the character of a nation, reconciled rival superstitions, and baffled an enemy who never retreated before his predecessors.—1812.

† Count Julian's daughter, the Helen of Spain. Pelagius preserved his independence in the fastnesses of the Asturias, and the descendants of his followers, after some centuries, completed their struggle by the conquest of Granada.

hen her war-song was heard on Andalusia's shore?

XXXVIII.

Hark! heard you not those hoofs of dreadful note? [heath?
Sounds not the clang of conflict on the Saw ye not whom the reeking sabre smote Nor saved your brethren ere they sank beneath
Tyrants and tyrants' slaves?—the fires of death, [rock
The bale-fires flash on high:—from rock to Each volley tells that thousands cease to breathe:
Death rides upon the sulphury Siroc, d battle stamps his foot, and nations feel the shock.

XXXIX.

Lo! where the giant on the mountain stands,
His blood-red tresses deepening in the sun,
With death-shot glowing in his fiery hands,
And eye that scorcheth all he glares upon;
Restless it rolls, now fix'd, and now anon
Flashing afar, and at his iron feet [done;
Destruction cowers, to mark what deeds are
For on this morn three potent nations meet,
o shed before his shrine the blood he deems most sweet.

XL.

By Heaven! it is a splendid sight to see
(For one who hath no friend, no brother there)
Their rival scarfs of mix'd embroidery,
Their various arms that glitter in the air!
What gallant war-hounds rouse them from their lair, [prey!
And gnash their fangs, loud yelling for the
All join the chase, but few the triumph share:
The Grave shall bear the chiefest prize away,
nd Havoc scarce for joy can number their array.

XLI.

Three hosts combine to offer sacrifice; [high;
Three tongues prefer strange orisons on
Three gaudy standards flout the pale blue skies: [Victory!
The shouts are France, Spain, Albion,
The foe, the victim, and the fond ally
That fights for all, but ever fights in vain,
Are met—as if at home they could not die—
To feed the crow on Talavera's plain, [gain.
nd fertilize the field that each pretends to

XLII.

There shall they rot—Ambition's honor'd fools! [clay!
Yes, Honor decks the turf that wraps their
Vain Sophistry! in these behold the tools,
The broken tools, that tyrants cast away
By myriads, when they dare to pave their way
With human hearts—to what?—a dream alone. [sway?
Can despots compass aught that hails their

Or call with truth one span of earth their own, [by bone?
Save that wherein at last they crumble

XLIII.

O Albuera, glorious field of grief! [steed,
As o'er thy plain the Pilgrim prick'd his
Who could foresee thee, in a space so brief,
A scene where mingling foes should boast and bleed? [meed
Peace to the perish'd! may the warrior's
And tears of triumph their reward prolong!
Till others fall where other chieftains lead,
Thy name shall circle round the gaping throng, [sient song.
And shine in worthless lays, the theme of tran-

XLIV.

Enough of Battle's minions! let them play
Their game of lives, and barter breath for fame:
Fame that will scarce reanimate their clay,
Though thousands fall to deck some single name.
In sooth, 'twere sad to thwart their noble aim
Who strike, blest hirelings! for their country's good, [shame;
And die, that living might have proved her
Perish'd, perchance, in some domestic feud,
Or in a narrower sphere wild Rapine's path pursued.

XLV.

Full swiftly Harold wends his lonely way
Where proud Sevilla triumphs unsubdued:
Yet is she free—the spoiler's wish'd-for prey!
Soon, soon shall Conquest's fiery foot intrude, [rude.
Blackening her lovely domes with traces
Inevitable hour! 'Gainst fate to strive
Where desolation plants her famish'd brood
Is vain, or Ilion, Tyre, might yet survive,
And Virtue vanquish all, and Murder cease to thrive.

XLVI.

But all unconscious of the coming doom,
The feast, the song, the revel here abounds;
Strange modes of merriment the hours consume, [wounds;
Nor bleed these patriots with their country's
Nor hear War's clarion, but Love's rebeck sounds;
Here Folly still her votaries enthralls,
And young-eyed Lewdness walks her midnight rounds:
Girt with the silent crimes of Capitals,
Still to the last kind Vice clings to the tottering walls.

XLVII.

Not so the rustic: with his trembling mate
He lurks, nor casts his heavy eye afar,
Lest he should view his vineyard desolate,
Blasted below the dun hot breath of war.
No more beneath soft Eve's consenting star
Fandango twirls his jocund castanet [mar,
Ah, monarchs! could ye taste the mirth ye

Not in the toils of Glory would ye fret;
The hoarse dull drum would sleep, and Man be happy yet.

XLVIII.

How carols now the lusty muleteer?
Of love, romance, devotion is his lay.
As whilome he was wont the leagues to cheer,
His quick bells wildly jingling on the way?
No! as he speeds he chants "Viva el Rey!"*
And checks his song to execrate Godoy,
The royal wittol Charles, and curse the day
When first Spain's queen beheld the black-eyed boy,
And gore-faced Treason sprung from her adul-[terate joy.

XLIX.

On yon long level plain, at distance crown'd
With crags, whereon those Moorish turrets rest,
Wide scatter'd hoof-marks dint the wounded ground;
And, scathed by fire, the greensward's darkened vest
Tells that the foe was Andalusia's guest:
Here was the camp, the watch-flame, and the host,
Here the brave peasant storm'd the dragon's [nest;
Still does he mark it with triumphant boast,
And points to yonder cliffs, which oft were won and lost.

L.

And whomsoe'er along the path you meet
Bears in his cap the badge of crimson hue,†
Which tells you whom to shun and whom to greet:
Woe to the man that walks in public view
Without of loyalty this token true:
Sharp is the knife, and sudden is the stroke;
And sorely would the Gallic foemen rue,
If subtle poniards, wrapt beneath the cloke,
Could blunt the sabre's edge, or clear the cannon's smoke.

LI.

At every turn Morena's dusky heigh
Sustains aloft the battery's iron load;
And, far as mortal eye can compass sight,
The mountain-howitzer, the broken road,
The bristling palisade, the fosse o'erflow'd,
The station'd bands, the never-vacant watch,
The magazine in rocky durance stow'd,
The holster'd steed beneath the shed of thatch,
The ball-piled pyramid,* the ever-blazing match,

LII.

Portend the deeds to come:—but he whose nod [sway,
Has tumbled feebler despots from their
A moment pauseth ere he lifts the rod;
A little moment deigneth to delay;
Soon will his legions sweep through these their way; [world.
The West must own the Scourger of the
Ah, Spain! how sad will be thy reckoning-day, [unfurl'd,
When soars Gaul's Vulture, with his wings
And thou shalt view thy sons in crowds to Hades hurl'd.

LIII.

And must they fall—the young, the proud, the brave— [some reign?
To swell one bloated Chief's unwhole-
No step between submission and a grave?
The rise of rapine and the fall of Spain?
And doth the Power that man adores ordain [peal?
Their doom, nor heed the suppliant's ap-
Is all that desperate Valor acts in vain?
And Counsel sage, and patriotic Zeal,
The Veteran's skill, Youth's fire, and Manhood's heart of steel?

LIV.

Is it for this the Spanish maid, aroused,
Hangs on the willow her unstrung guitar,
And, all unsex'd, the anlace hath espoused,
Sung the loud song, and dared the deed of war? [scar
And she, whom once the semblance of a
Appall'd, an owlet's larum chill'd with dread, [jar,
Now views the column-scattering bay'net
The falchion flash, and o'er the yet warm dead [quake to tread.
Stalks with Minerva's step where Mars might

LV.

Ye who shall marvel when you hear her tale,
Oh! had you known her in her softer hour,
Mark'd her black eye that mocks her coal-black veil, [bower,
Heard her light, lively tones in Lady's
Seen her long locks that foil the painter's power, [grace,
Her fairy form, with more than female
Scarce would you deem that Saragoza's tower
Beheld her smile in Danger's Gorgon face,
Thin the closed ranks, and lead in Glory's fearful chase.

LVI.

Her lover sinks—she sheds no ill-timed tear,
Her chief is slain—she fills his fatal post;

* "Viva el Rey Fernando!" Long live King Ferdinand! is the chorus of most of the Spanish patriotic songs. They are chiefly in dispraise of the old King Charles, the Queen, and the Prince of Peace. I have heard many of them: some of the airs are beautiful. Don Manuel Godoy, the Principe de la Paz, of an ancient but decayed family, was born at Badajoz, on the frontiers of Portugal, and was originally in the ranks of the Spanish guards; till his person attracted the queen's eyes, and raised him to the dukedom of Alcudia, etc., etc. It is to this man that the Spaniards universally impute the ruin of their country.

† The red cockade, with "Fernando VII." in the centre.

* All who have seen a battery will recollect the pyramidal form in which shot and shell are piled. The Sierra Morena was fortified in every defile through which I passed in my way to Spain.

Her fellows flee—she checks their base career;
The foe retires—she heads the sallying host;
Who can appease like her a lover's ghost?
Who can avenge so well a leader's fall?
What maid retrieve when man's flush'd hope is lost?
Who hung so fiercely on the flying Gaul,
oil'd by a woman's hand, before a batter'd wall?*

LVII.

Yet are Spain's maids no race of Amazons,
But form'd for all the witching arts of love:
Though thus in arms they emulate his sons,
And in the horrid phalanx dare to move,
'Tis but the tender fierceness of the dove,
Pecking the hand that hovers o'er her mate;
In softness as in firmness far above
Remoter females, famed for sickening prate;
Her mind is nobler sure, her charms perchance as great.

LVIII.

The seal Love's dimpling finger hath impress'd [touch;†
Denotes how soft that chin which bears his
Her lips, whose kisses pout to leave their
Bid man be valiant ere he merit such: [nest,
Her glance, how wildly beautiful! how much
Hath Phœbus woo'd in vain to spoil her cheek, [ous clutch!
Which glows yet smoother from his amor-
Who round the North for paler dames would seek? [wan and weak!
How poor their forms appear! how languid,

LIX.

Match me, ye climes! which poets love to laud; [now
Match me, ye harems of the land! where
I strike my strain,‡ far distant, to applaud
Beauties that even a cynic must avow!
Match me those Houris, whom ye scarce allow [wind,
To taste the gale lest Love should ride the
With Spain's dark-glancing daughters—deign to know, [find,
There your wise Prophet's paradise we
His black-eyed maids of Heaven angelically kind.

LX.

Oh thou, Parnassus! whom I now survey,§
Not in the frenzy of a dreamer's eye,
Not in the fabled landscape of a lay, [sky,
But soaring snow-clad through thy native
In the wild pomp of mountain majesty!
What marvel if I thus essay to sing?
The humblest of thy pilgrims passing by
Would gladly woo thine Echoes with his string, [will wave her wing.
Though from thy heights no more one Muse

LXI.

Oft have I dream'd of Thee! whose glorious name [lore!
Who knows not, knows not man's divinest
And now I view thee, 'tis, alas, with shame
That I in feeblest accents must adore.
When I recount thy worshippers of yore
I tremble, and can only bend the knee;
Nor raise my voice, nor vainly dare to soar,
But gaze beneath thy cloudy canopy
In silent joy to think at last I look on Thee!

LXII.

Happier in this than mightiest bards have been, [lot,
Whose fate to distant homes confined their
Shall I unmoved behold the hallow'd scene,
Which others rave of, though they know it not? [grot,
Though here no more Apollo haunts his
And thou, the Muses' seat, art now their grave,
Some gentle spirit still pervades the spot,
Sighs in the gale, keeps silence in the cave,
And glides with glassy foot o'er yon melodious wave.

LXIII.

Of thee hereafter,—Ev'n amidst my strain
I turn'd aside to pay my homage here;
Forgot the land, the sons, the maids of Spain;
Her fate, to every free-born bosom dear;
And hail'd thee, not perchance without a tear.
Now to my theme—but from thy holy haunt
Let me some remnant, some memorial bear;
Yield me one leaf of Daphne's deathless plant, [vaunt.
Nor let thy votary's hope be deem'd an idle

LXIV.

But ne'er didst thou, fair Mount! when Greece was young,
See round thy giant base a brighter choir;
Nor e'er did Delphi, when her priestess sung
The Pythian hymn with more than mortal
Behold a train more fitting to inspire [fire,
The song of love than Andalusia's maids,
Nurst in the glowing lap of soft desire:
Ah! that to these were given such peaceful shades [her glades.
As Greece can still bestow, though Glory fly

LXV.

Fair is proud Seville; let her country boast
Her strength, her wealth, her site of ancient days.*
But Cadiz, rising on the distant coast,

* Such were the exploits of the Maid of Saragoza, who by her valor elevated herself to the highest rank of heroines. When the author was at Seville, she walked daily on the Prado, decorated with medals and orders, by command of the Junta.

† "Sigilla in mento impressa Amoris digitulo Vestigio demonstrant mollitudinem."—AUL. GEL.

‡ This stanza was written in Turkey.

§ These stanzas were written in Castri (Delphos), at the foot of Parnassus, now called Liakura, Dec., 1809.

* Seville was the Hispalis of the Romans.

Calls forth a sweeter, though ignoble praise.
Ah, Vice! how soft are thy voluptuous ways!
While boyish blood is mantling, who can
The fascination of thy magic gaze? ['scape
A Cherub-hydra round us dost thou gape,
And mould to every taste thy dear delusive
shape.

LXVI.

When Paphos fell by Time—accursed Time!
The Queen who conquers all must yield to
thee— [clime;
The Pleasures fled, but sought as warm a
And Venus, constant to her native sea,
To nought else constant, hither deign'd to
flee, [white:
And fix'd her shrine within these walls of
Though not to one dome circumscribeth she
Her worship, but, devoted to her rite,
A thousand altars rise, forever blazing bright.

LXVII.

From morn till night, from night till star-
tled Morn
Peeps blushing on the revel's laughing crew,
The song is heard, the rosy garland worn;
Devices quaint, and frolics ever new,
Tread on each other's kibes. A long adieu
He bids to sober joy that here sojourns:
Nought interrupts the riot, though in lieu
Of true devotion monkish incense burns,
And love and prayer unite, or rule the hour
by turns.

LXVIII.

The Sabbath comes, a day of blessed rest;
What hallows it upon this Christian shore?
Lo! it is sacred to a solemn feast: [roar?
Hark! heard you not the forest monarch's
Crashing the lance, he snuffs the spouting
gore [horn:
Of man and steed, o'erthrown beneath his
The throng'd arena shakes with shouts for
more; [torn,
Yells the mad crowd o'er entrails freshly
Nor shrinks the female eye, nor ev'n affects to
mourn.

LXIX.

The seventh day this; the jubilee of man.
London! right well thou know'st the day of
prayer;
Then thy spruce citizen, washed artisan,
And smug apprentice gulp their weekly air:
Thy coach of hackney, whiskey, one-horse
chair, [whirl;
And humblest gig, through sundry suburbs
To Hampstead, Brentford, Harrow, make
repair;
Till the tired jade the wheel forgets to hurl,
Provoking envious gibe from each pedestrian
churl.

LXX.

Some o'er thy Thamis row the ribbon'd fair,
Others along the safer turnpike fly; [Ware,
Some Richmond-hill ascend, some scud to
And many to the steep of Highgate hie.

Ask ye, Bœotian shades, the reason why?*
'Tis to the worship of the solemn Horn,
Grasp'd in the holy hand of Mystery,
In whose dread name both men and maids
are sworn, [dance till morn.
And consecrate the oath with draught, and

LXXI.

All have their fooleries—not alike are thine,
Fair Cadiz, rising o'er the dark blue sea!
Soon as the matin bell proclaimeth nine,
Thy saint adorers count the rosary; [free
Much is the VIRGIN teased to shrive them
(Well do I ween the only virgin there) [be;
From crimes as numerous as her beadsmen
Then to the crowded circus forth they fare;
Young, old, high, low, at once the same diver-
sion share.

LXXII.

The lists are oped, the spacious area clear'd,
Thousands on thousands piled are seated
round; [heard,
Long ere the first loud trumpet's note is
No vacant space for lated wight is found:
Here dons, grandees, but chiefly dames
abound,
Skill'd in the ogle of a roguish eye,
Yet ever well inclined to heal the wound;
None through their cold disdain are doom'd
to die, [archery.
As moon-struck bards complain, by Love's sad

LXXIII.

Hush'd is the din of tongues—on gallant
steeds, [poised lance,
With milk-white crest, gold spur, and light-
Four cavaliers prepare for venturous deeds,
And lowly bending to the lists advance;
Rich are their scarfs, their chargers featly
prance;
If in the dangerous game they shine to-day,
The crowd's loud shout, and ladies' lovely
glance,
Best prize of better acts, they bear away,
And all that kings or chiefs e'er gain their
toils repay.

LXXIV.

In costly sheen and gaudy cloak array'd,
But all afoot, the light-limb'd Matadore
Stands in the centre, eager to invade
The lord of lowing herds; but not before
The ground, with cautious tread, is trav-
ersed o'er, [speed;
Lest aught unseen should lurk to thwart his
His arms a dart, he fights aloof, nor more

* This was written at Thebes, and consequently in the best situation for asking and answering such a question: not as the birthplace of Pindar, but as the capital of Bœotia, where the first riddle was propounded and solved.

The poet alludes to a burlesque oath, which it was the custom to administer to guests of the lower classes at the Highgate public-houses. It was uttered over a pair of horns. The oath was "never to eat brown bread if he could get white, never to drink small beer when he could get strong," etc., etc.; with the saving clause, "unless he preferred the contrary."

Can man achieve without the friendly steed— [bleed.
as! too oft condemn'd for him to bear and

LXXV.

Thrice sounds the clarion; lo! the signal falls,
The den expands, and Expectation mute
Gapes around the silent circle's peopled walls. [brute,
Bounds with one lashing spring the mighty
And wildly staring, spurns, with sounding foot,
The sand, nor blindly rushes on his foe:
Here, there, he points his threatening front, to suit
His first attack, wide waving to and fro
is angry tail; red rolls his eye's dilated glow.

LXXVI.

Sudden he stops; his eye is fix'd; away,
Away, thou heedless boy! prepare the spear;
Now is thy time to perish, or display
The skill that yet may check his mad career.
With well-timed croupe the nimble coursers veer; [goes;
On foams the bull, but not unscathed he
Streams from his flank the crimson torrent clear; [throes:
He flies, he wheels, distracted with his
art follows dart; lance, lance; loud bellowings speak his woes.

LXXVII.

Again he comes; nor dart nor lance avail,
Nor the wild plunging of the tortured horse;
Though man and man's avenging arms assail,
Vain are his weapons, vainer is his force.
One gallant steed is stretch'd a mangled corse;
Another, hideous sight! unseam'd appears,
His gory chest unveils life's panting source;
Though death-struck, still his feeble frame he rears; [harm'd he bears.
taggering, but stemming all, his lord un-

LXXVIII.

Foil'd, bleeding, breathless, furious to the last,
Full in the centre stands the bull at bay,
Mid wounds, and clinging darts, and lances
And foes disabled in the brutal fray; [brast,
And now the Matadores around him play,
Shake the red cloak, and poise the ready brand; [dering way—
Once more through all he bursts his thun-
Vain rage! the mantle quits the conynge hand, [the sand!
Wraps his fierce eye—'tis past—he sinks upon

LXXIX.

Where his vast neck just mingles with the spine,
Sheathed in his form the deadly weapon lies.
He stops—he starts—disdaining to decline:
Slowly he falls, amidst triumphant cries,
Without a groan, without a struggle dies.
The decorated car appears—on high
The corse is piled—sweet sight for vulgar eyes— [shy,
Four steeds that spurn the rein, as swift as
Hurl the dark bull along, scarce seen in dashing by.

LXXX.

Such the ungentle sport that oft invites
The Spanish maid, and cheers the Spanish swain:
Nurtured in blood betimes, his heart delights
In vengeance, gloating on another's pain.
What private feuds the troubled village stain! [meet the foe,
Though now one phalanx'd host should
Enough, alas! in humble homes remain,
To meditate 'gainst friends the secret blow,
For some slight cause of wrath, whence life's warm stream must flow.

LXXXI.

But Jealousy has fled: his bars, his bolts,
His wither'd sentinel, Duenna sage!
And all whereat the generous soul revolts,
Which the stern dotard deem'd he could encage, [age,
Have pass'd to darkness with the vanish'd
Who late so free as Spanish girls were seen
(Ere War uprose in his volcanic rage),
With braided tresses bounding o'er the green, [loving Queen?
While on the gay dance shone Night's lover-

LXXXII.

Oh! many a time and oft had Harold loved,
Or dream'd he loved, since Rapture is a dream.
But now his wayward bosom was unmoved,
For not yet had he drunk of Lethe's stream:
And lately had he learn'd with truth to deem
Love has no gift so grateful as his wings:
How fair, how young, how soft soe'er he seem, [springs*
Full from the fount of Joy's delicious
Some bitter o'er the flowers its bubbling venom flings.

LXXXIII.

Yet to the beauteous form he was not blind,
Though now it moved him as it moves the
Not that Philosophy on such a mind [wise,
E'er deign'd to bend her chastely-awful eyes,
But Passion raves itself to rest, or flies;
And Vice, that digs her own voluptuous tomb,
Had buried long his hopes, no more to rise;
Pleasure's pall'd victim! life-abhorring gloom [ing doom.
Wrote on his faded brow curst Cain's unrest-

* "Medio de fonte leporum
Surgit amari aliquid quod in ipsis floribus angat."
Luc.

LXXXIV.

Still he beheld, nor mingled with the throng,
But view'd them not with misanthropic hate:
Fain would he now have join'd the dance, the song; [fate?
But who may smile that sinks beneath his
Nought that he saw his sadness could abate:
Yet once he struggled 'gainst the demon's sway,
And as in Beauty's bower he pensive sate,
Pour'd forth this unpremeditated lay,
To charms as fair as those that soothed his happier day.

TO INEZ.

Nay, smile not at my sullen brow,
Alas! I cannot smile again:
Yet Heaven avert that ever thou
Shouldst weep, and haply weep in vain.

And dost thou ask what secret woe
I bear, corroding joy and youth?
And wilt thou vainly seek to know
A pang ev'n thou must fail to soothe?

It is not love, it is not hate,
Nor low Ambition's honors lost,
That bids me loathe my present state,
And fly from all I prized the most:

It is that weariness which springs
From all I meet, or hear, or see:
To me no pleasure Beauty brings;
Thine eyes have scarce a charm for me.

It is that settled, ceaseless gloom,
The fabled Hebrew wanderer bore,
That will not look beyond the tomb,
But cannot hope for rest before.

What Exile from himself can flee?
To zones, though more and more remote,
Still, still pursues, where'er I be,
The blight of life—the demon Thought!

Yet others wrapt in pleasure seem,
And taste of all that I forsake:
Oh! may they still of transport dream,
And ne'er, at least like me, awake!

Through many a clime 'tis mine to go,
With many a retrospection curst;
And all my solace is to know,
What'er betides, I've known the worst.

What is that worst? Nay, do not ask—
In pity from the search forbear:
Smile on—nor venture to unmask
Man's heart, and view the Hell that's there.

LXXXV.

Adieu, fair Cadiz! yea, a long adieu!
Who may forget how well thy walls have stood? [true,
When all were changing, thou alone wert
First to be free, and last to be subdued.
And if amidst a scene, a shock so rude,
Some native blood was seen thy streets to dye,
A traitor only fell beneath the feud:*
Here all were noble, save Nobility;
None hugg'd a conqueror's chain save fallen Chivalry!

LXXXVI.

Such be the sons of Spain, and strange her fate! [free:
They fight for freedom, who were never
A kingless people for a nerveless state, [flee,
Her vassals combat when their chieftains
True to the veriest slaves of Treachery;
Fond of a land which gave them nought but life,
Pride points the path that leads to Liberty.
Back to the struggle, baffled in the strife,
War, war is still the cry, "War even to the knife!"†

LXXXVII.

Ye, who would more of Spain and Spaniards know, [strife:
Go, read what'er is writ of bloodiest
What'er keen Vengeance urged on foreign foe
Can act, is acting there against man's life:
From flashing scimitar to secret knife,
War mouldeth there each weapon to his need—
So may he guard the sister and the wife,
So may he make each curst oppressor bleed,
So may such foes deserve the most remorseless deed!

LXXXVIII.

Flows there a tear of pity for the dead?
Look o'er the ravage of the reeking plain;
Look on the hands with female slaughter red;
Then to the dogs resign the unburied slain,
Then to the vulture let each corse remain,
Albeit unworthy of the prey-bird's maw;
Let their bleach'd bones, and blood's unbleaching stain. [awe,
Long mark the battle-field with hideous
Thus only may our sons conceive the scenes we saw!

LXXXIX.

Ner yet, alas, the dreadful work is done;
Fresh legions pour adown the Pyrenees:
It deepens still, the work is scarce begun,
Nor mortal eye the distant end foresees.
Fall'n nations gaze on Spain: if freed, she frees
More than her fell Pizarros once enchain'd.
Strange retribution! now Columbia's ease
Repairs the wrongs that Quito's sons sustain'd, [unrestrain'd.
While o'er the parent clime prowls Murder

XC.

Not all the blood at Talavera shed,

* Alluding to the conduct and death of Solano, the governor of Cadiz, in May, 1809.

† Palafox's answer to the French general at the siege of Saragoza.

t all the marvels of Barossa's fight,
it Albuera lavish of the dead,
ve won for Spain her well-asserted right.
nen shall her Olive-Branch be free from
blight? [ing toil?
nen shall she breathe her from the blush-
w many a doubtful day shall sink in
night, [spoil,
e the Frank robber turn him from his
Freedom's stranger-tree grow native of
the soil!

XCI.

d thou, my friend!* since unavailing woe
rsts from my heart, and mingles with the
strain— [low,
id the sword laid thee with the mighty

Pride might forbid e'en Friendship to complain:
But thus unlaurel'd to descend in vain,
By all forgotten, save the lonely breast,
And mix unbleeding with the boasted slain,
While Glory crowns so many a meaner crest! [to rest!
What hadst thou done, to sink so peacefully

XCII.

Oh, known the earliest, and esteem'd the most! [dear!
Dear to a heart where nought was left so
Though to my hopeless days forever lost,
In dreams deny me not to see thee here!
And Morn in secret shall renew the tear
Of Consciousness awaking to her woes,
And Fancy hover o'er thy bloodless bier,
Till my frail frame return to whence it rose, [repose.
And mourn'd and mourner lie united in

XCIII.

Here is one fytte of Harold's pilgrimage:
Ye who of him may further seek to know,
Shall find some tidings in a future page,
If he that rhymeth now may scribble moe.
Is this too much? Stern Critic, say not so:
Patience! and ye shall hear what he beheld
In other lands where he was doom'd to go;
Lands that contain the monuments of Eld,
Ere Greece and Grecian arts by barbarous hands were quell'd.

*he Honorable John Wingfield, of the Guards, who
of a fever at Coimbra (May 14, 1811). I had known
en years, the better half of his life, and the hap-
part of mine. In the short space of one month I
ost her who gave me being, and most of those who
made that being tolerable. To me the lines of
g are no fiction:—
tiate archer! could not one suffice!
shaft flew thrice, and thrice my peace was slain,
thrice ere thrice yon moon had filled her horn."
ld have ventured a verse to the memory of the
harles Skinner Matthews, Fellow of Downing Col-
'ambridge, were he not too much above all praise
ne. His powers of mind, shown in the attainment
ater honors, against the ablest candidates, than
of any graduate on record at Cambridge, have
ently established his fame on the spot where it
equired; while his softer qualities live in the
ection of friends who loved him too well to envy
periority.

CANTO THE SECOND.

I.

ME, blue-eyed maid of heaven!—but
thou, alas,
dst never yet one mortal song inspire—
oddess of Wisdom! here thy temple was,
d is, despite of war and wasting fire,*
nd years that bade thy worship to expire:
t worse than steel, and flame, and ages
slow,
the dread sceptre and dominion dire
men who never felt the sacred glow
thoughts of thee and thine on polish'd
breasts bestow.†

II.

Ancient of days! august Athena! where,
Where are thy men of might? thy grand in soul? [things that were:
Gone—glimmering through the dream of
First in the race that led to Glory's goal,
They won, and pass'd away—is this the whole?
A schoolboy's tale, the wonder of an hour!
The warrior's weapon and the sophist's stole
Are sought in vain, and o'er each mouldering tower, [of power.
Dim with the mist of years, grey flits the shade

III.

Son of the morning, rise! approach you here!
Come—but molest not yon defenceless urn;
Look on this spot—a nation's sepulchre!
Abode of gods, whose shrines no longer burn.

rt of the Acropolis was destroyed by the explosion
nagazine during the Venetian siege.
e can all feel, or imagine, the regret with which
ins of cities, once the capitals of empires, are be-
the reflections suggested by such objects are too
o require recapitulation. But never did the little-
f man, and the vanity of his very best virtues, of
otism to exalt, and of valor to defend, his country,
r more conspicuous than in the record of what
s was, and the certainty of what she now is. This
re of contention between mighty factions, of the
gies of orators, the exaltation and deposition of
ts, the triumph and punishment of generals, is now
ne a scene of petty intrigue and perpetual disturb-
between the bickering agents of certain British
ty and gentry. "The wild foxes, the owls, and
its in the ruins of Babylon," were surely less de-
ng than such inhabitants. The Turks have the
f conquest for their tyranny, and the Greeks have
suffered the fortune of war, incidental to the
st; but how are the mighty fallen, when two
rs contest the privilege of plundering the Par-
n, and triumph in turn, according to the tenor of

each succeeding firman! Sylla could but punish, Philip subdue, and Xerxes burn Athens; but it remained for the paltry antiquarian, and his despicable agents, to render her contemptible as himself and his pursuits. The Parthenon, before its destruction, in part, by fire during the Venetian siege, had been a temple, a church, and a mosque. In each point of view it is an object of regard: it changed its worshippers; but still it was a place of worship thrice sacred to devotion: its violation is a triple sacrifice. But—

"Man, proud man,
Drest in a little brief authority,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high Heaven
As make the angels weep,"

Even gods must yield—religions take their turn: [creeds
'Twas Jove's—'tis Mahomet's; and other
Will rise with other years, till man shall learn
Vainly his incense soars, his victim bleeds;
Poor child of Doubt and Death, whose hope is built on reeds.

IV.

Bound to the earth, he lifts his eyes to heaven—
Is't not enough, unhappy thing, to know
Thou art? Is this a boon so kindly given,
That being, thou wouldst be again, and go,
Thou know'st not, reck'st not to what region, so [skies?
On earth no more, but mingled with the
Still wilt thou dream on future joy and woe?
Regard and weigh yon dust before it flies:
That little urn saith more than thousand homilies.

V.

Or burst the vanish'd Hero's lofty mound;
Far on the solitary shore he sleeps:*
He fell, and falling nations mourn'd around:
But now not one of saddening thousands weeps,
Nor warlike worshipper his vigil keeps
Where demi-gods appear'd, as records tell.
Remove yon skull from out the scatter'd heaps:
Is that a temple where a god may dwell?
Why, ev'n the worm at last disdains her shatter'd cell!

VI.

Look on its broken arch, its ruin'd wall,
Its chambers desolate, and portals foul;
Yes, this was once Ambition's airy hall,
The dome of Thought, the palace of the Soul.
Behold through each lack-lustre, eyeless hole,
The gay recess of Wisdom and of wit, [trol;
And Passion's host, that never brook'd con-
Can all saints, sage, or sophist ever writ,
People this lonely tower, this tenement refit?

VII.

Well didst thou speak, Athena's wisest son!
"All that we know is, nothing can be known." [shun?
Why should we shrink from what we cannot
Each hath its pang, but feeble sufferers groan
With brain-born dreams of evil all their own.
Pursue what Chance or Fate proclaimeth best;
Peace waits us on the shores of Acheron:
There no forced banquet claims the sated guest, [rest.
But Silence spreads the couch of ever welcome

VIII.

Yet if, as holiest men have deem'd, there be
A land of souls beyond that sable shore,
To shame the doctrine of the Sadducee
And sophists, madly vain of dubious lore;
How sweet it were in concert to adore
With those who made our mortal labors light! [more!
To hear each voice we fear'd to hear no
Behold each mighty shade reveal'd to sight,
The Bactrian, Samian sage, and all who taught the right!

IX.

There, thou!—whose love and life, together fled,
Have left me here to love and live in vain—
Twined with my heart, and can I deem thee dead,
When busy Memory flashes on my brain?
Well—I will dream that we may meet again,
And woo the vision to my vacant breast:
If aught of young Remembrance then remain,
Be as it may Futurity's behest, [main,
For me 'twere bliss enough to know thy spirit blest!

X.

Here let me sit upon this massy stone,
The marble column's yet unshaken base!
Here, son of Saturn, was thy favorite throne;*
Mightiest of many such! Hence let me trace
The latent grandeur of thy dwelling-place.
It may not be: not ev'n can Fancy's eye
Restore what Time hath labor'd to deface.
Yet these proud pillars claim no passing sigh;
Unmoved the Moslem sits, the light Greek carols by.

XI.

But who, of all the plunderers of yon fane
On high, where Pallas linger'd, loth to flee
The latest relic of her ancient reign;
The last, the worst, dull spoiler, who was he?
Blush, Caledonia! such thy son could be!
England! I joy no child he was of thine:
Thy free-born men should spare what once was free; [shrine,
Yet they could violate each saddening
And bear these altars o'er the long-reluctant brine.†

XII.

But most the modern Pict's ignoble boast,
To rive what Goth, and Turk, and Time hath spared:‡
Cold as the crags upon his native coast,
His mind as barren and his heart as hard,
Is he whose head conceived, whose hand prepared,
Aught to displace Athena's poor remains:

* It was not always the custom of the Greeks to burn their dead; the greater Ajax, in particular, was interred entire. Almost all the chiefs became gods after their decease; and he was indeed neglected who had not annual games near his tomb, or festivals in honor of his memory by his countrymen, as Achilles, Brasidas, etc., and at last even Antinous, whose death was as heroic as his life was infamous.

* The temple of Jupiter Olympius, of which sixteen columns, entirely of marble, yet survive: originally there were one hundred and fifty. These columns, however, are by many supposed to have belonged to the Pantheon.

† The ship was wrecked in the Archipelago.

‡ See Notes at the end of the volume.

Her sons, too weak the sacred shrine to guard,
Yet felt some portion of their mother's pains,*
And never knew, till then, the weight of Despot's chains.

XIII.

What! shall it e'er be said by British tongue,
Albion was happy in Athena's tears?
Though in thy name the slaves her bosom wrung,
Tell not the deed to blushing Europe's ears;
The ocean queen, the free Britannia, bears
The last poor plunder from a bleeding land:
Yes, she, whose generous aid her name endears,
Tore down those remnants with a harpy's hand,
Which envious Eld forbore, and tyrants left to stand.

XIV.

Where was thine Ægis, Pallas! that appall'd
Stern Alaric and Havoc on their way?†
Where Peleus' son? whom Hell in vain inthralled,
More,
His shade from Hades upon that dread day
Bursting to light in terrible array! What! could not Pluto spare the chief once
To scare a second robber from his prey?
Idly he wander'd on the Stygian shore,
Nor now preserved the walls he loved to shield before.

XV.

Cold is the heart, fair Greece! that looks on thee,
Nor feels as lovers o'er the dust they loved;
Dull is the eye that will not weep to see
Thy walls defaced, thy mouldering shrines removed
By British hands, which it had best behoved
To guard those relics ne'er to be restored.
Curst be the hour when from their isle they roved,
And once again thy hapless bosom gored,
And snatch'd thy shrinking Gods to northern climes abhorr'd!

XVI.

But where is Harold? shall I then forget
To urge the gloomy wanderer o'er the wave?
Little reck'd he of all that men regret;
No loved one now in feign'd lament could rave;
No friend the parting hand extended gave,
Ere the cold stranger pass'd to other climes;
Hard is his heart whom charms may not enslave;
But Harold felt not as in other times,
And left without a sigh the land of war and crimes.

XVII.

He that has sail'd upon the dark blue sea
Has view'd at times, I ween, a full fair sight;
When the fresh breeze is fair as breeze may be,
The white sail set, the gallant frigate tight;
Masts, spires, and strand retiring to the right,
The glorious main expanding o'er the bow,
The convoy spread like wild swans in their flight,
The dullest sailer wearing bravely now,
So gaily curl the waves before each dashing prow.

XVIII.

And oh, the little warlike world within!
The well-reeved guns, the netted canopy,*
The hoarse command, the busy humming din,
When, at a word, the tops are manned on high:
Hark to the Boatswain's call, the cheering cry!
While through the seaman's hand the tackle glides;
Or schoolboy Midshipman that, standing by,
Strains his shrill pipe as good or ill betides,
And well the docile crew that skilful urchin guides.

XIX.

White is the glassy deck, without a stain,
Where on the watch the staid Lieutenant walks:
Look on that part which sacred doth remain
For the lone chieftain, who majestic stalks,
Silent and fear'd by all—not oft he talks
With aught beneath him, if he would preserve
That strict restraint, which broken, ever balks
Conquest and fame: but Britons rarely swerve
From law, however stern, which tends their strength to nerve.

XX.

Blow! swiftly blow, thou keel-compelling gale!
Till the broad sun withdraws his lessening ray;
Then must the pennant-bearer slacken sail,
That lagging barks may make their lazy way.
Ah! grievance sore, and listless dull delay,
To waste on sluggish hulks the sweetest breeze,
What leagues are lost, before the dawn of day,
Thus loitering pensive on the willing seas,
The flapping sail haul'd down to halt for logs like these!

* I cannot resist availing myself of the permission of my friend Dr. Clarke, whose name requires no comment with the public, but whose sanction will add tenfold weight to my testimony, to insert the following extract from a very obliging letter of his to me, as a note to the above lines:—"When the last of the Metopes was taken from the Parthenon, and, in moving of it, great part of the superstructure with one of the triglyphs was thrown down by the workmen whom Lord Elgin employed, the Disdar, who beheld the mischief done to the building, took his pipe from his mouth, dropped a tear, and, in a supplicating tone of voice, said to Lusieri, 'Telos'!—I was present." The Disdar alluded to was the father of the present Disdar.

† According to Zosimus, Minerva and Achilles frightened Alaric from the Acropolis; but others relate that the Gothic king was nearly as mischievous as the Scottish peer.—See Chandler.

* To prevent blocks and splinters falling during action.

XXI.

The moon is up; by Heaven, a lovely eve!
Long streams of light o'er dancing waves expand; [believe:
Now lads on shore may sigh, and maids
Such be our fate when we return to land!
Meantime some rude Arion's restless hand
Wakes the brisk harmony that sailors love;
A circle there of merry listeners stand,
Or to some well-known measure featly move, [free to rove.
Thoughtless, as if on shore they still were

XXII.

Through Calpe's straits survey the steepy shore,
Europe and Afric on each other gaze!
Lands of the dark-eyed Maid and dusky Moor
Alike beheld beneath pale Hecate's blaze:
How softly on the Spanish shore she plays,
Disclosing rock, and slope, and forest brown, [phase;
Distinct, though darkening with her waning
But Mauritania's giant shadows frown,
From mountain-cliff to coast descending sombre down.

XXIII.

'Tis night, when Meditation bids us feel
We once have loved, though love is at an end:
The heart, lone mourner of its baffled zeal,
Though friendless now, will dream it had a friend. [to bend,
Who with the weight of years would wish
When Youth itself survives young Love and Joy?
Alas! when mingling souls forget to blend,
Death hath but little left him to destroy!
Ah! happy years! once more who would not be a boy?

XXIV.

Thus bending o'er the vessel's laving side,
To gaze on Dian's wave-reflected sphere,
The soul forgets her schemes of hope and pride, [year.
And flies unconscious o'er each backward
None are so desolate but something dear,
Dearer than self, possesses or possess'd
A thought, and claims the homage of a tear;
A flashing pang! of which the weary breast
Would still, albeit in vain, the heavy heart divest.

XXV.

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell,
To slowly trace the forest's shady scene,
Where things that own not man's dominion dwell,
And mortal foot hath ne'er or rarely been;
To climb the trackless mountain all unseen,
With the wild flock that never needs a fold;
Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls to lean;
This is not solitude; 'tis but to hold
Converse with Nature's charms, and view her stores unroll'd.

XXVI.

But midst the crowd, the hum, the shock of men,
To hear, to see, to feel, and to possess,
And roam along, the world's tired denizen,
With none who bless us, none whom we can bless; [tress!
Minions of splendor shrinking from dis-
None that, with kindred consciousness endued,
If we were not, would seem to smile the less,
Of all that flatter'd, follow'd, sought, and sued;
This is to be alone; this, this is solitude!

XXVII.

More blest the life of godly eremite,
Such as on lonely Athos may be seen,
Watching at eve upon the giant height,
Which looks o'er waves so blue, skies so serene,
That he who there at such an hour hath been
Will wistful linger on that hallow'd spot;
Then slowly tear him from the witching scene, [lot,
Sigh forth one wish that such had been his
Then turn to hate a world he had almost forgot.

XXVIII.

Pass we the long, unvarying course, the track
Oft trod, that never leaves a trace behind;
Pass we the calm, the gale, the change, the tack, [wind;
And each well-known caprice of wave and
Pass we the joys and sorrows sailors find,
Coop'd in their winged sea-girt citadel;
The foul, the fair, the contrary, the kind,
As breezes rise and fall, and billows swell,
Till on some jocund morn—lo, land! and all is well.

XXIX.

But not in silence pass Calypso's isles,
The sister tenants of the middle deep;
There for the weary still a haven smiles,
Though the fair goddess long hath ceased to weep;
And o'er her cliffs a fruitless watch to keep
For him who dared prefer a mortal bride:
Here, too, his boy essay'd the dreadful leap
Stern Mentor urged from high to yonder tide; [doubly sigh'd.
While thus of both bereft, the nymph-queen

XXX.

Her reign is past, her gentle glories gone:
But trust not this: too easy youth, beware!
A mortal sovereign holds her dangerous throne,
And thou mayst find a new Calypso there.
Sweet Florence! could another ever share
This wayward, loveless heart, it would be thine:
But check'd by every tie, I may not dare

To cast a worthless offering at thy shrine,
Nor ask so dear a breast to feel one pang for mine.

XXXI.

Thus Harold deem'd, as on that lady's eye
He look'd, and met its beam without a thought
Save admiration glancing harmless by:
Love kept aloof, albeit not far remote,
Who knew his votary often lost and caught,
But knew him as his worshipper no more,
And ne'er again the boy his bosom sought:
Since now he vainly urged him to adore,
Well deem'd the little God his ancient sway was o'er.

XXXII.

Fair Florence found, in sooth with some amaze, [saw,
One who, 'twas said, still sigh'd to all he
Withstand, unmoved, the lustre of her gaze,
Which others hail'd with real or mimic awe,
Their hope, their doom, their punishment, their law; [claims:
All that gay Beauty from her bondsmen
And much she marvell'd that a youth so raw
Nor felt, nor feign'd at least, the oft-told flames, [rarely anger dames.
Which, though sometimes they frown, yet

XXXIII.

Little knew she that seeming marble heart,
Now mask'd by silence or withheld by pride,
Was not unskilful in the spoiler's art, [wide;
And spread its snares licentious far and
Not from the base pursuit had turn'd aside,
As long as aught was worthy to pursue:
But Harold on such arts no more relied;
And had he doted on those eyes so blue,
Yet never would he join the lover's whining crew.

XXXIV.

Not much he kens, I ween, of woman's breast, [sighs:
Who thinks that wanton thing is won by
What careth she for hearts when once possess'd?
Do proper homage to thine idol's eyes;
But not too humbly, or she will despise
Thee and thy suit, though told in moving tropes;
Disguise ev'n tenderness, if thou art wise;
Brisk Confidence still best with woman copes; [crowns thy hopes.
Pique her and soothe in turn, soon Passion

XXXV.

'Tis an old lesson: Time approves it true,
And those who know it best deplore it most,
When all is won that all desire to woo,
The paltry prize is hardly worth the cost:
Youth wasted, minds degraded, honor lost,
These are thy fruits, successful Passion!
If, kindly cruel, early Hope is crost, [these!
Still to the last it rankles, a disease,
Not to be cured when Love itself forgets to please.

XXXVI.

Away! nor let me loiter in my song,
For we have many a mountain path to tread,
And many a varied shore to sail along,
By pensive Sadness, not by Fiction, led—
Climes, fair withal as ever mortal head
Imagined in its little schemes of thought;
Or e'er in new Utopias were read, [ought;
To teach man what he might be, or he
If that corrupted thing could ever such be taught.

XXXVII.

Dear Nature is the kindest mother still;
Though always changing, in her aspect mild:
From her bare bosom let me take my fill,
Her never-wean'd, though not her favor'd child.
Oh! she is fairest in her features wild,
Where nothing polish'd dares pollute her path:
To me by day or night she ever smiled,
Though I have mark'd her when none other hath, [best in wrath.
And sought her more and more, and loved her

XXXVIII.

Land of Albania! where Iskander rose;
Theme of the young, and beacon of the wise;
And he his namesake, whose oft-baffled foes
Shrunk from his deeds of chivalrous emprise:
Land of Albania! let me bend mine eyes*
On thee, thou rugged nurse of savage men!
The cross descends, thy minarets arise,
And the pale crescent sparkles in the glen,
Through many a cypress grove within each city's ken.

XXXIX.

Childe Harold sail'd, and pass'd the barren spot
Where sad Penelope o'erlook'd the wave;†
And onward view'd the mount, not yet forgot,
The lover's refuge, and the Lesbian's grave.
Dark Sappho! could not verse immortal save [fire?
That breast imbued with such immortal
Could she not live who life eternal gave?
If life eternal may await the lyre,
That only heaven to which Earth's children may aspire.

XL.

'Twas on a Grecian autumn's gentle eve,
Childe Harold hail'd Leucadia's cape afar;‡
A spot he long'd to see, nor cared to leave:
Oft did he mark the scenes of vanish'd war,
Actium, Lepanto, fatal Trafalgar: §

* See a long characteristic Note by Lord Byron at the end of the volume.]

† Ithaca.

‡ Leucadia, now Santa Maura. From the promontory (the Lover's Leap) Sappho is said to have thrown herself.

§ Actium and Trafalgar need no further mention. The battle of Lepanto, equally bloody and considerable, but less known, was fought in the gulf of Patras. Here the author of "Don Quixote" lost his left hand.

Mark them unmoved, for he would not delight
(Born beneath some remote inglorious star)
In themes of bloody fray, or gallant fight,
But loath'd the bravo's trade, and laugh'd at martial wight.

XLI.

But when he saw the evening star above
Leucadia's far-projecting rock of woe,
And hail'd the last resort of fruitless love,
He felt, or deem'd he felt, no common glow:
And as the stately vessel glided slow
Beneath the shadow of that ancient mount,
He watched the billows' melancholy flow,
And, sunk albeit in thought as he was wont,
More placid seem'd his eye, and smooth his pallid front.

XLII.

Morn dawns; and with it stern Albania's hills,
Dark Suli's rocks, and Pindus' inland peak,
Robed half in mist, bedew'd with snowy rills,
Array'd in many a dun and purple streak,
Arise; and, as the clouds along them break,
Disclose the dwelling of the mountaineer;
Here roams the wolf, the eagle whets his beak, [pear,
Birds, beasts of prey, and wilder men appear,
And gathering storms around convulse the closing year.

XLIII.

Now Harold felt himself at length alone,
And bade to Christian tongues a long adieu:
Now he adventured on a shore unknown,
Which all admire, but many dread to view:
His breast was arm'd 'gainst fate, his wants were few: [meet:
Peril he sought not, but ne'er shrank to
The scene was savage, but the scene was new;
This made the ceaseless toil of travel sweet,
Beat back keen winter's blast, and welcomed summer's heat.

XLIV.

Here the red cross, for still the cross is here,
Though sadly scoff'd at by the circumcised,
Forgets that pride to pamper'd priesthood dear:
Churchman and votary alike despised.
Foul superstition! howsoe'er disguised,
Idol, saint, virgin, prophet, crescent, cross,
For whatsoever symbol thou art prized,
Thou sacerdotal gain, but general loss!
Who from true worship's gold can separate thy dross?

XLV.

Ambracia's gulf behold, where once was lost
A world for woman, lovely, harmless thing!
In yonder rippling bay, their naval host
Did many a Roman chief and Asian king*
To doubtful conflict, certain slaughter, bring:

* It is said that on the day previous to the battle of Actium, Antony had thirteen kings at his levee.

Look where the second Cæsar's trophies rose,* [withering;
Now, like the hands that reared them,
Imperial anarchs, doubling human woes!
God! was thy globe ordain'd for such to win and lose?

XLVI.

From the dark barriers of that rugged
Ev'n to the centre of Illyria's vales, [clime,
Childe Harold pass'd o'er many a mount sublime, [tales:
Through lands scarce noticed in historic
Yet in famed Attica such lovely dales
Are rarely seen; nor can fair Tempe boast
A charm they know not; loved Parnassus fails,
Though classic ground and consecrated most, [lowering coast.
To match some spots that lurk within this

XLVII.

He pass'd bleak Pindus, Acherusia's lake,†
And left the primal city of the land,
And onwards did his further journey take,
To greet Albania's chief, whose dread command‡
Is lawless law; for with a bloody hand
He sways a nation, turbulent and bold:
Yet here and there some daring mountain-band [hold
Disdain his power, and from their rocky
Hurl their defiance far, nor yield, unless to gold.§

XLVIII.

Monastic Zitza! from thy shady brow,‖
Thou small, but favor'd spot of holy ground!
Where'er we gaze, around, above, below,
What rainbow tints, what magic charms are found!
Rock, river, forest, mountain all abound,
And bluest skies that harmonize the whole:
Beneath, the distant torrent's rushing sound

* Nicopolis, whose ruins are most extensive, is at some distance from Actium, where the wall of the Hippodrome survives in a few fragments. These ruins are large masses of brickwork, the bricks of which are joined by interstices of mortar, as large as the bricks themselves, and equally durable.

† According to Pouqueville, the lake of Yanina: but Pouqueville is always out.

‡ The celebrated Ali Pacha. Of this extraordinary man there is an incorrect account in Pouqueville's Travels.

§ Five thousand Suliotes, among the rocks and in the castle of Suli, withstood thirty thousand Albanians for eighteen years; the castle at last was taken by bribery. In this contest there were several acts performed not unworthy of the better days of Greece.

‖ The convent and village of Zitza are four hours' journey from Joannina, or Yanina, the capital of the pachalic. In the valley the river Kalamas (once the Acheron) flows, and not far from Zitza forms a fine cataract. The situation is, perhaps, the finest in Greece, though the approach to Delvinachi and parts of Acarnania and Ætolia may contest the palm. Delphi, Parnassus, and, in Attica, even Cape Colonna and Port Raphti, are very inferior; as also every scene in Ionia, or the Troad: I am almost inclined to add, the approach to Constantinople; but from the different features of the last, a comparison can hardly be made.

Tells where the volumed cataract doth roll
Between those hanging rocks, that shock yet please the soul.

XLIX.

Amidst the grove that crowns yon tufted hill,
Which, were it not for many a mountain nigh
Rising in lofty ranks, and loftier still,
Might well itself be deem'd of dignity,
The convent's white walls glisten fair on high;
Here dwells the caloyer;* nor rude is he,
Nor niggard of his cheer: the passer-by
Is welcome still; nor heedless will he flee
From hence, if he delight kind Nature's sheen to see.

L.

Here in the sultriest season let him rest,
Fresh is the green beneath those aged trees;
Here winds of gentlest wing will fan his breast,
From heaven itself he may inhale the breeze:
The plain is far beneath—oh! let him seize
Pure pleasure while he can; the scorching ray
Here pierceth not, impregnate with disease:
Then let his length the loitering pilgrim lay,
And gaze, untired, the morn, the noon, the eve away.

LI.

Dusky and huge, enlarging on the sight,
Nature's volcanic amphitheatre, †
Chimæra's alps extend from left to right:
Beneath, a living valley seems to stir;
Flocks play, trees wave, streams flow, the mountain fir
Nodding above; behold black Acheron! ‡
Once consecrated to the sepulchre.
Pluto! if this be hell I look upon,
Close shamed Elysium's gates, my shade shall seek for none.

LII.

No city's towers pollute the lovely view;
Unseen is Yanina, though not remote, [few,
Veil'd by the screen of hills: here men are
Scanty the hamlet, rare the lonely cot;
But, peering down each precipice, the goat
Browseth: and, pensive o'er his scatter'd flock,
The little shepherd in his white capote§
Doth lean his boyish form along the rock,
Or in his cave awaits the tempest's short-lived shock.

LIII.

Oh! where, Dodona! is thine aged grove,
Prophetic fount, and oracle divine?
What valley echoed the response of Jove?
What trace remaineth of the Thunderer's shrine?
All, all forgotten—and shall man repine
That his frail bonds to fleeting life are broke?
Cease, fool! the fate of gods may well be thine:
Wouldst thou survive the marble or the oak,
When nations, tongues, and words must sink beneath the stroke?

LIV.

Epirus' bounds recede, and mountains fail;
Tired of up-gazing still, the wearied eye
Reposes gladly on as smooth a vale
As ever Spring yclad in grassy dye:
Ev'n on a plain no humble beauties lie,
Where some bold river breaks the long expanse,
And woods along the banks are waving high,
Whose shadows in the glassy waters dance,
Or with the moonbeam sleep in midnight's solemn trance.

LV.

The sun had sunk behind vast Tomerit,*
And Laos wide and fierce came roaring by;†
The shades of wonted night were gathering yet, [warily
When, down the steep banks winding
Childe Harold saw, like meteors in the sky,
The glittering minarets of Tepalen,
Whose walls o'erlook the stream; and drawing nigh,
He heard the busy hum of warrior-men
Swelling the breeze that sigh'd along the lengthening glen.

LVI.

He pass'd the sacred Haram's silent tower,
And underneath the wide o'erarching gate
Survey'd the dwelling of this chief of power,
Where all around proclaim'd his high estate.
Amidst no common pomp the despot sate,
While busy preparation shook the court;
Slaves, eunuchs, soldiers, guests and santons wait;
Within, a palace, and without, a fort,
Here men of every clime appear to make resort.

LVII.

Richly caparison'd, a ready row
Of armed horse, and many a warlike store,
Circled the wide-extending court below;
Above, strange groups adorn'd the corridore; [door,
And ofttimes through the area's echoing

---

* The Greek monks are so called.

† The Chimariot mountains appear to have been volcanic.

‡ Now called Kalamas.

§ Albanese cloak.

* Anciently Mount Tomarus.

† The river Laos was full at the time the author passed it; and, immediately above Tepaleen, was to the eye as wide as the Thames at Westminster—at least in the opinion of the author and his fellow-traveller. In the summer it must be much narrower. It certainly is the finest river in the Levant; neither Achelous, Alpheus, Acheron, Scamander, nor Cayster approached it in breadth or beauty.

Some high-capp'd Tartar spurr'd his steed away; [Moor,
The Turk, the Greek, the Albanian, and the
Here mingled in their many-hued array,
While the deep war-drum's sound announced the close of day.

LVIII.

The wild Albanian kirtled to his knee,
With shawl-girt head and ornamented gun,
And gold-embroider'd garments, fair to see:
The crimson-scarfed men of Macedon;
The Delhi with his cap of terror on,
And crooked glaive; the lively, supple Greek;
And swarthy Nubia's mutilated son;
The bearded Turk, that rarely deigns to speak,
Master of all around, too potent to be meek,

LIX.

Are mix'd conspicuous: some recline in groups, [round;
Scanning the motley scene that varies
There some grave Moslem to devotion stoops, [are found:
And some that smoke, and some that play
Here the Albanian proudly treads the ground; [to prate;
Half-whispering there the Greek is heard
Hark! from the mosque the nightly solemn sound,
The Muezzin's call doth shake the minaret,
"There is no god but God!—to prayer—lo! God is great!"

LX.

Just at this season Ramazani's fast [tain,
Through the long day its penance did main-
But when the lingering twilight hour was past,
Revel and feast assumed the rule again:
Now all was bustle, and the menial train
Prepared and spread the plenteous board within: [vain,
The vacant gallery now seem'd made in
But from the chambers came the mingling din, [and in.
As page and slave anon were passing out

LXI.

Here woman's voice is never heard: apart
And scarce permitted, guarded, veil'd, to move,
She yields to one her person and her heart,
Tamed to her cage, nor feels a wish to rove;
For, not unhappy in her master's love,
And joyful in a mother's gentlest cares,
Blest cares! all other feelings far above!
Herself more sweetly rears the babe she bears, [shares.
Who never quits the breast, no meaner passion

LXII.

In marble-paved pavilion, where a spring
Of living water from the centre rose,
Whose bubbling did a genial freshness fling, [pose,
And soft voluptuous couches breathed re-
Ali reclined, a man of war and woes:
Yet in his lineaments ye cannot trace,
While Gentleness her milder radiance
Along that aged venerable face, [throws,
The deeds that lurk beneath, and stain him with disgrace.

LXIII.

It is not that yon hoary lengthening beard
Ill suits the passions which belong to youth:
Love conquers age—so Hafiz hath averr'd,
So sings the Teian, and he sings in sooth—
But crimes that scorn the tender voice of Ruth,
Beseeming all men ill but most the man
In years, have mark'd him with a tiger's tooth: [tal span,
Blood follows blood, and through their mor-
In bloodier acts conclude those who with blood began.

LXIV.

'Mid many things most new to ear and eye
The pilgrim rested here his weary feet,
And gazed around on Moslem luxury,
Till quickly wearied with that spacious seat
Of Wealth and Wantonness, the choice retreat
Of sated grandeur from the city's noise:
And were it humbler, in it sooth were
But Peace abhorreth artificial joys, [sweet;
And Pleasure, leagued with Pomp, the zest of both destroys.

LXV.

Fierce are Albania's children, yet they lack
Not virtues, were those virtues more mature.
Where is the foe that ever saw their back?
Who can so well the toil of war endure?
Their native fastnesses not more secure
Than they in doubtful time of troublous need: [ship sure,
Their wrath how deadly! but their friend-
When Gratitude or Valor bids them bleed,
Unshaken rushing on where'er their chief may lead.

LXVI.

Childe Harold saw them in their chieftain's tower,
Thronging to war in splendor and success;
And after view'd them, when, within their power,
Himself awhile the victim of distress;
That saddening hour when bad men hotlier press;
But these did shelter him beneath their roof,
When less barbarians would have cheer'd him less,
And fellow countrymen have stood aloof*—
In aught that tries the heart how few withstand the proof!

* Alluding to the wreckers of Cornwall.

LXVII.

It chanced that adverse winds once drove his bark
Full on the coast of Suli's shaggy shore,
When all around was desolate and dark;
To land was perilous, to sojourn more;
Yet for a while the mariners forbore, [lurk:
Dubious to trust where treachery might
At length they ventured forth, though doubting sore [Turk
That those who loathe alike the Frank and light once again renew their ancient butcher-work.

LXVIII.

Vain fear! the Suliotes stretch'd the welcome hand, [swamp,
Led them o'er rocks and past the dangerous
Kinder than polish'd slaves, though not so bland, [ments damp,
And piled the hearth, and wrung their gar-
And fill'd the bowl, and trimm'd the cheerful lamp, [they had:
And spread their fare; though homely, all
Such conduct bears Philanthropy's rare stamp—
To rest the weary and to soothe the sad,
Doth lesson happier men, and shames at least the bad.

LXIX.

It came to pass, that when he did address
Himself to quit at length this mountain land, [egress,
Combined marauders halfway barred
And wasted far and near with glaive and brand;
And therefore did he take a trusty band
To traverse Acarnania's forest wide, [tann'd,
In war well season'd, and with labors
Till he did greet white Achelous' tide, [pied.
And from his further bank Ætolia's wolds es-

LXX.

Where lone Utraikey forms its circling cove,
And weary waves retire to gleam at rest,
How brown the foliage of the green hill's grove, [breast,
Nodding at midnight o'er the calm bay's
As winds come whispering lightly from the west, [rene:—
Kissing, not ruffling, the blue deep's se-
Here Harold was received a welcome guest;
Nor did he pass unmoved the gentle scene,
For many a joy could he from Night's soft presence glean.

LXXI.

On the smooth shore the night-fires brightly blazed, [fast,*
The feast was done, the red wine circling
And he that unawares had there ygazed
With gaping wonderment had stared aghast; [past,
For ere night's midmost, stillest hour was

* The Albanian Mussulmans do not abstain from wine, and indeed very few of the others.

The native revels of the troop began;
Each Palikar* his sabre from him cast,
And bounding hand in hand, man link'd to man, [kirtled clan.
Yelling their uncouth dirge, long daunced the

LXXII.

Childe Harold at a little distance stood,
And view'd, but not displeased, the revelrie,
Nor hated harmless mirth, however rude:
In sooth, it was no vulgar sight to see [glee:
Their barbarous, yet their not indecent,
And as the flames along their faces gleam'd,
Their gestures nimble, dark eyes flashing free, [stream'd,
The long wild locks that to their girdles
While thus in concert they this lay half sang, half screamed:†

Tambourgi! Tambourgi![‡] thy larum afar
Gives hope to the valiant, and promise of war; [note,
All the sons of the mountains arise at the
Chimariot, Illyrian, and dark Suliote![§]

Oh! who is more brave than a dark Suliote,
In his snowy camese and his shaggy capote?
To the wolf and the vulture he leaves his wild flock, [from the rock.
And descends to the plain like the stream

Shall the sons of Chimari, who never forgive
The fault of a friend, bid an enemy live?
Let those guns so unerring such vengeance forego?
What mark is so fair as the breast of a foe?

Macedonia sends forth her invincible race;
For a time they abandon the cave and the chase: [der, before
But those scarfs of blood-red shall be red-
The sabre is sheathed and the battle is o'er.

Then the pirates of Parga that dwell by the waves, [slaves,
And teach the pale Franks what it is to be
Shall leave on the beach the long galley and oar,
And track to his covert the captive on shore.

I ask not the pleasures that riches supply,
My sabre shall win what the feeble must buy; [flowing hair,
Shall win the young bride with her long
And many a maid from her mother shall tear.

I love the fair face of the maid in her youth;
Her caresses shall lull me, her music shall soothe:

* Palikar, shortened when addressed to a single person, from Palikari, a general name for a soldier amongst the Greeks and Albanese who speak Romaic; it means, properly, "a lad."

† See long Note at the end of the volume for a specimen of the Albanian dialect.

‡ Drummer.

§ These stanzas are partly taken from different Albanese songs, as far as I was able to make them out by the exposition of the Albanese in Romaic and Italian.

Let her bring from her chamber the many-toned lyre,
And sing us a song on the fall of her sire.

Remember the moment when Previsa fell,*
The shrieks of the conquer'd, the conquerors' yell; [shared,
The roofs that we fired, and the plunder we
The wealthy we slaughter'd, the lovely we spared.

I talk not of mercy, I talk not of fear;
He neither must know who would serve the Vizier; [ne'er saw
Since the days of our prophet the Crescent
A chief ever glorious like Ali Pashaw.

Dark Muchtar his son to the Danube is sped,
Let the yellow-hair'd† Giaours view his horsetail with dread;
When his Delhis‡ come dashing in blood o'er the banks, [ranks!
How few shall escape from the Muscovite

Selictar!§ unsheath then our chief's scimitar: [war.
Tambourgi! thy larum gives promise of
Ye mountains that see us descend to the shore,
Shall view us as victors or view us no more!

LXXIII.

Fair Greece! sad relic of departed worth!‖
Immortal, though no more, though fallen, great!
Who now shall lead thy scatter'd children forth,
And long accustom'd bondage uncreate?
Not such thy sons who whilome did await,
The hopeless warriors of a willing doom,
In bleak Thermopylæ's sepulchral strait—
Oh, who that gallant spirit shall resume,
Leap from Eurotas' banks, and call thee from the tomb?

LXXIV.

Spirit of Freedom, when on Phyle's brow¶
Thou sat'st with Thrasybulus and his train,
Could'st thou forebode the dismal hour which now [plain?
Dims the green beauties of thine Attic
Not thirty tyrants now enforce the chain,
But every carle can lord it o'er thy land;
Nor rise thy sons, but idly rail in vain,
Trembling beneath the scourge of Turkish hand,**
From birth till death enslaved; in word, in deed, unmann'd.

LXXV.

In all save form alone, how changed! and who [eye,
That marks the fire still sparkling in each
Who would but deem their bosoms burn'd anew
With thy unquenched beam, lost Liberty!
And many dream withal the hour is nigh
That gives them back their father's heritage:
For foreign arms and aid they fondly sigh,
Nor solely dare encounter hostile rage,
Or tear their name defiled from Slavery's mournful page.

LXXVI.

Hereditary bondsmen! know ye not
Who would be free themselves must strike the blow? [wrought?
By their right arms the conquest must be
Will Gaul or Muscovite redress ye? No!
True, they may lay your proud despoilers low,
But not for you will Freedom's altars flame.
Shades of the Helots! triumph o'er your foe:
Greece! change thy lords, thy state is still the same; [shame.
Thy glorious day is o'er, but not thy years of

LXXVII.

The city won for Allah from the Giaour,
The Giaour from Othman's race again may
And the Serai's impenetrable tower [wrest:
Receive the fiery Frank, her former guest;*
Or Wahab's rebel brood, who dared divest
The prophet's tomb of all its pious spoil,†
May wind their path of blood along the West;
But ne'er will Freedom seek this fated soil,
But slave succeed to slave through years of endless toil.

LXXVIII.

Yet mark their mirth—ere lenten days begin,
That penance which their holy rites prepare
To shrive from man his weight of mortal sin,
By daily abstinence and nightly prayer;
But ere his sackcloth garb Repentance wear,
Some days of joyaunce are decreed to all,
To take the pleasaunce each his secret share,
In motley robe to dance at masking ball,
And join the mimic train of merry Carnival.

LXXIX.

And whose more rife with merriment than thine, [reign?
O Stamboul! once the empress of their
Though turbans now pollute Sophia's shrine,
And Greece her very altars eyes in vain:
(Alas! her woes will still pervade my strain!)
Gay were her minstrels once, for free her throng, [feign;
All felt the common joy they now must

* It was taken by storm from the French.

† Yellow is the epithet given to the Russians. Giaour: Infidel. Horsetail: the insignia of a Pacha.

‡ Horsemen, answering to our forlorn hope.

§ "Selictar," sword-bearer.

‖ See Note at end of volume.

¶ Phyle, which commands a beautiful view of Athens, has still considerable remains. It was seized by Thrasybulus previous to the expulsion of the Thirty.

** See Note at end of volume.

* When taken by the Latins, and retained for several years.

† Mecca and Medina were taken some time ago by the Wahabees, a sect yearly increasing.

Nor oft I've seen such sight, nor heard such song, [along.
As woo'd the eye, and thrill'd the Bosphorus

LXXX.

Loud was the lightsome tumult on the shore;
Oft Music changed, but never ceased her tone,
And timely echo'd back the measured oar,
And rippling waters made a pleasant moan:
The Queen of tides on high consenting shone; [wave,
And when a transient breeze swept o'er the
'Twas as if, darting from her heavenly throne,
A brighter glance her form reflected gave,
Till sparkling billows seem'd to light the banks they lave.

LXXXI.

Glanced many a light caique along the foam,
Danced on the shore the daughters of the land,
No thought had man or maid of rest or home,
While many a languid eye and thrilling hand
Exchanged the look few bosoms may withstand,
Or gently prest, returned the pressure still:
Oh Love! young Love! bound in thy rosy band,
Let sage or cynic prattle as he will, [hours,
These hours, and only these, redeem Life's years of ill!

LXXXII.

But, 'midst the throng in merry masquerade,
Lurk there no hearts that throb with secret pain, [tray'd?
Even through the closest searment half be-
To such the gentle murmurs of the main
Seem to re-echo all they mourn in vain;
To such the gladness of the gamesome crowd
Is source of wayward thought and stern disdain:
How do they loathe the laughter idly loud,
And long to change the robe of revel for the shroud!

LXXXIII.

This must he feel, the true-born son of Greece, [boast:
If Greece one true-born patriot still can
Not such as prate of war, but skulk in peace,
The bondsman's peace, who sighs for all he lost, [cost,
Yet with smooth smile his tyrant can accost,
And wield the slavish sickle, not the sword:
Ah, Greece! they love thee least who owe thee most— [record
Their birth, their blood, and that sublime
Of hero sires, who shame thy now degenerate horde?

LXXXIV.

When riseth Lacedæmon's hardihood,
When Thebes Epaminondas rears again,
When Athens' children are with hearts endued, [men,
When Grecian mothers shall give birth to
Then may'st thou be restored; but not till then.
A thousand years scarce serve to form a state;
An hour may lay it in the dust, and when
Can man its shatter'd splendor renovate,
Recall its virtues back, and vanquish Time and Fate?

LXXXV.

And yet how lovely in thine age of woe,
Land of lost gods and godlike men, art thou!
Thy vales of evergreen, thy hills of snow,*
Proclaim thee Nature's varied favorite now;
Thy fanes, thy temples to thy surface bow,
Commingling slowly with heroic earth,
Broke by the share of every rustic plough:
So perish monuments of mortal birth,
So perish all in turn, save well-recorded Worth;

LXXXVI.

Save where some solitary column mourns
Above its prostrate brethren of the cave;†
Save where Tritonia's airy shrine adorns
Colonna's cliff, and gleams along the wave;‡
Save o'er some warrior's half-forgotten grave,
Ages, but not oblivion, feebly brave,
While strangers only not regardless pass,
Lingering like me, perchance, to gaze, and sigh "Alas!"

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* On many of the mountains, particularly Liakura, the snow never is entirely melted, notwithstanding the intense heat of the summer; but I never saw it lie on the plains, even in winter.

† Of Mount Pentelicus, from whence the marble was dug that constructed the public edifices of Athens. The modern name is Mount Mendeli. An immense cave formed by the quarries still remains, and will till the end of time.

‡ In all Attica, if we except Athens itself and Marathon, there is no scene more interesting than Cape Colonna. To the antiquary and artist, sixteen columns are an inexhaustible source of observation and design; to the philosopher, the supposed scene of some of Plato's conversations will not be unwelcome; and the traveller will be struck with the beauty of the prospect over "isles that crown the Ægean deep"; but, for an Englishman, Colonna has yet an additional interest, as the actual spot of Falconer's shipwreck. Pallas and Plato are forgotten, in the recollection of Falconer and Campbell:

"Here in the dead of night by Lonna's steep,
The seaman's cry was heard along the deep."

This temple of Minerva may be seen at sea from a great distance. In two journeys which I made, and one voyage to Cape Colonna, the view from either side by land was more striking than the approach from the isles. In our second land excursion we had a narrow escape from a party of Mainotes concealed in the caverns beneath. We were told afterwards by one of their prisoners, subsequently ransomed, that they were deterred from attacking us by the appearance of my two Albanians: conjecturing very sagaciously, but falsely, that we had a complete guard of these Arnaouts at hand, they remained stationary, and thus saved our party, which was too small to have opposed any effectual resistance. Colonna is no less a resort of painters than of pirates: there

"The hireling artist plants his paltry desk,
And makes degraded nature picturesque."—
(See HODGSON'S "Lady Jane Grey," etc.)

But there Nature, with the aid of Art, has done that for herself. I was fortunate enough to engage a very superior German artist, and hope to renew my acquaintance with this and many other Levantine scenes by the arrival of his performances.

LXXXVII.

Yet are thy skies as blue, thy crags as wild;
Sweet are thy groves, and verdant are thy fields,
Thine olive ripe as when Minerva smiled,
And still his honey'd wealth Hymettus yields;
There the blithe bee his fragrant fortress builds,
The freeborn wanderer of thy mountain air;
Apollo still thy long, long summer gilds,
Still in his beam Mendeli's marbles glare;
Art, Glory, Freedom fail, but Nature still is fair.

LXXXVIII.

Where'er we tread, 'tis haunted, holy ground;
No earth of thine is lost in vulgar mould,
But one vast realm of wonder spreads around,
And all the Muse's tales seem truly told,
Till the sense aches with gazing to behold
The scenes our earliest dreams have dwelt upon:
Each hill and dale, each deepening glen and wold,
Defies the power which crush'd thy temples gone:
Age shakes Athena's tower, but spares grey Marathon.

LXXXIX.

The sun, the soil, but not the slave, the same;
Unchanged in all except its foreign lord—
Preserves alike its bounds and boundless fame;
The Battle-field, where Persia's victim horde
First bow'd beneath the brunt of Hellas' sword,
As on the morn to distant Glory dear,
When Marathon became a magic word;*
Which utter'd, to the hearer's eye appear
The camp, the host, the fight, the conqueror's career.

XC.

The flying Mede, his shaftless broken bow;
The fiery Greek, his red pursuing spear;
Mountains above, Earth's Ocean's plain below,
Death in the front, Destruction in the rear!
Such was the scene—what now remaineth here?
What sacred trophy marks the hallow'd ground,
Recording Freedom's smile and Asia's tear?
The rifled urn, the violated mound,
The dust thy courser's hoof, rude stranger! spurns around.

XCI.

Yet to the remnants of thy splendor past
Shall pilgrims, pensive, but unwearied, throng;
Long shall the voyager, with th' Ionian blast,
Hail the bright clime of battle and of song;
Long shall thine annals and immortal tongue
Fill with thy fame the youth of many a shore:
Boast of the aged! lesson of the young!
Which sages venerate and bards adore,
As Pallas and the Muse unveil their awful lore.

XCII.

The parted bosom clings to wonted home,
If aught that's kindred cheer the welcome hearth;
He that is lonely, hither let him roam,
And gaze complacent on congenial earth.
Greece is no lightsome land of social mirth;
But he whom Sadness sootheth may abide,
And scarce regret the region of his birth,
When wandering slow by Delphi's sacred side,
Or gazing o'er the plains where Greek and Persian died.

XCIII.

Let such approach this consecrated land,
And pass in peace along the magic waste:
But spare its relics—let no busy hand
Deface the scenes, already how defaced!
Not for such purpose were these altars placed,
Revere the remnants nations once revered,
So may our country's name be undisgraced,
So may'st thou prosper where thy youth was rear'd,
By every honest joy of love and life endear'd!

XCIV.

For thee, who thus in too protracted song
Hast soothed thine idlesse with inglorious lays,
Soon shall thy voice be lost amid the throng
Of louder minstrels in these later days;
To such resign the strife for fading bays—
Ill may such contest now the spirit move
Which heeds nor keen reproach nor partial praise,
Since cold each kinder heart that might approve,
And none are left to please where none are left to love.

XCV.

Thou too art gone, thou loved and lovely one!
Whom youth and youth's affections bound to me;
Who did for me what none beside have done,
Who did for me what none beside have done,
Nor shrank from one albeit unworthy thee.
What is my being? thou hast ceased to be!
Nor stay'd to welcome here thy wanderer home,
Who mourns o'er hours which we no more shall see—

* "Siste Viator—heroa calcas!" was the epitaph on the famous Count Merci;—what, then, must be our feelings when standing on the tumulus of the two hundred (Greeks) who fell on Marathon? The principal barrow has recently been opened by Fauvel: few or no relics, as vases, etc., were found by the excavator. The plain of Marathon was offered to me for sale at the sum of sixteen thousand piastres, about nine hundred pounds! Alas—"Expende—quot libras in duce summo—invenies!"—was the dust of Miltiades worth no more? It could scarcely have fetched less if sold by weight.

Would they had never been, or were to come! [cause to roam!
Would he had ne'er return'd to find fresh

XCVI.

Oh! ever loving, lovely, and beloved!
How selfish sorrow ponders on the past,
And clings to thoughts now better far removed! [last.
But Time shall tear thy shadow from me
All thou couldst have of mine, stern Death, thou hast: [friend;
The parent, friend, and now the more than
Ne'er yet for one thine arrows flew so fast,
And grief with grief continuing still to blend, [to lend.
Hath snatch'd the little joy that life had yet

XCVII.

Then must I plunge again into the crowd,
And follow all that Peace disdains to seek?
Where Revel calls, and Laughter, vainly loud,
False to the heart, distorts the hollow cheek,
To leave the lagging spirit doubly weak;
Still o'er the features, which perforce they cheer,
To feign the pleasure or conceal the pique?
Smiles form the channel of a future tear,
Or raise the writhing lip with ill-dissembled sneer.

XCVIII.

What is the worst of woes that wait on age?
What stamps the wrinkle deeper on the brow? [page,
To view each loved one blotted from life's
And be alone on earth, as I am now.
Before the Chastener humbly let me bow,
O'er hearts divided and o'er hopes destroy'd: [flow,
Roll on, vain days! full reckless may ye
Since Time hath reft whate'er my soul enjoy'd, [alloy'd.
And with the ills of Eld mine earlier years

CANTO THE THIRD.

1816.

"Afin que cette application vous forçat de penser a autre chose; il n'y a en verite de remede que celui-la et le temps."—Lettre du Roi de Prusse a D'Alembert, Sept. 7, 1776.

I.

Is thy face like thy mother's, my fair child!
Ada! sole daughter of my house and heart?
When last I saw thy young blue eyes, they smiled,
And then we parted,—not as now we part,
But with a hope.—
Awaking with a start,
The waters heave around me; and on high
The winds lift up their voices: I depart,
Whither I know not; but the hour's gone by,
When Albion's lessening shores could grieve or glad mine eye.

II.

Once more upon the waters! yet once more!
And the waves bound beneath me as a steed
That knows his rider. Welcome to their roar!
Swift be their guidance wheresoe'er it lead!
Though the strain'd mast should quiver as a reed,
And the rent canvas fluttering strew the gale,
Still must I on; for I am as a weed,
Flung from the rock, on Ocean's foam, to sail [breath prevail.
Where'er the surge may sweep, the tempest's

III.

In my youth's summer I did sing of One,
The wandering outlaw of his own dark mind;
Again I seize the theme, then but begun,
And bear it with me, as the rushing wind
Bears the cloud onwards: in that Tale I find
The furrows of long thought, and dried-up tears,
Which, ebbing, leave a sterile track behind,
O'er which all heavily the journeying years
Plod the last sands of life—where not a flower appears.

IV.

Since my young days of passion—joy, or pain, [string,
Perchance my heart and harp have lost a
And both may jar: it may be, that in vain
I would essay as I have sung to sing.
Yet, though a dreary strain, to this I cling,
So that it wean me from the weary dream
Of selfish grief or gladness—so it fling
Forgetfulness around me—it shall seem
To me, though to none else, a not ungrateful theme.

V.

He, who grown aged in this world of woe,
In deeds, not years, piercing the depths of life,
So that no wonder waits him; nor below
Can love or sorrow, fame, ambition, strife,
Cut to his heart again with the keen knife
Of silent, sharp endurance: he can tell [rife
Why thought seeks refuge in lone caves, yet
With airy images, and shapes which dwell
Still unimpair'd, though old, in the soul's haunted cell.

VI.

'Tis to create, and in creating live
A being more intense, that we endow

With form our fancy, gaining as we give
The life we image, even as I do now.
What am I? Nothing: but not so art thou,
Soul of my thought: with whom I traverse
Invisible, but gazing, as I glow [earth,
Mix'd with thy spirit, blended with thy birth,
And feeling still with thee in my crush'd feelings' dearth.

VII.

Yet must I think less wildly:—I *have* thought
Too long and darkly, till my brain became,
In its own eddy boiling and o'erwrought,
A whirling gulf of phantasy and flame:
And thus, untaught in youth my heart to tame,
My springs of life were poison'd. 'Tis too late! [same
Yet am I changed: though still enough the
In strength to bear what time cannot abate,
And feed on bitter fruits without accusing Fate.

VIII.

Something too much of this:—but now 'tis past,
And the spell closes with its silent seal.
Long-absent Harold reappears at last;
He of the breast which fain no more would feel, [ne'er heal;
Wrung with the wounds which kill not, but
Yet Time, who changes all, had alter'd him
In soul and aspect as in age: years steal
Fire from the mind as vigor from the limb;
And life's enchanted cup but sparkles near the brim.

IX.

His had been quaff'd too quickly, and he found [again,
The dregs were wormwood; but he fill'd
And from a purer fount, on holier ground,
And deemed its spring perpetual; but in
Still round him clung invisibly a chain [vain!
Which gall'd for ever, fettering though unseen, [pain,
And heavy though it clank'd not; worn with
Which pined although it spoke not, and grew keen, [many a scene.
Entering with every step he took through

X.

Secure in guarded coldness, he had mix'd
Again in fancied safety with his kind,
And deem'd his spirit now so firmly fix'd
And sheath'd with an invulnerable mind,
That, if no joy, no sorrow lurk'd behind;
And he, as one, might 'midst the many stand
Unheeded, searching through the crowd to find
Fit speculation; such as in strange land
He found in wonder-works of God and Nature's hand.

XI.

But who can view the ripen'd rose, nor seek
To wear it? who can curiously behold
The smoothness and the sheen of beauty's cheek,
Nor feel the heart can never all grow old?
Who can contemplate Fame through clouds unfold [climb?
The star which rises o'er her steep, nor
Harold, once more within the vortex, roll'd
On with the giddy circle, chasing Time,
Yet with a nobler aim than in his youth's fond prime.

XII.

But soon he knew himself the most unfit
Of men to herd with Man; with whom he held
Little in common; untaught to submit
His thoughts to others, though his soul was quell'd [pell'd,
In youth by his own thoughts; still uncom-
He would not yield dominion of his mind
To spirits against whom his own rebell'd;
Proud though in desolation; which could find [kind.
A life within itself, to breathe without man-

XIII.

Where rose the mountains, there to him were friends; [home;
Where roll'd the ocean, thereon was his
Where a blue sky, and glowing clime, extends,
He had the passion and the power to roam;
The desert, forest, cavern, breaker's foam
Were unto him companionship; they spake
A mutual language, clearer than the tome
Of his land's tongue, which he would oft forsake [the lake.
For Nature's pages glass'd by sunbeams on

XIV.

Like the Chaldean, he could watch the stars,
Till he had peopled them with beings bright
As their own beams; and earth, and earth-born jars,
And human frailties, were forgotten quite:
Could he have kept his spirit to that flight,
He had been happy; but this clay will sink
Its spark immortal, envying it the light
To which it mounts, as if to break the link
That keeps us from yon heaven which woos us to its brink.

XV.

But in Man's dwellings he became a thing
Restless and worn, and stern and wearisome,
Droop'd as a wild-born falcon with clipt wing,
To whom the boundless air alone were home;
Then came his fit again, which to o'ercome,
As eagerly the barr'd-up bird will beat
His breast and beak against his wiry dome
Till the blood tinge his plumage, so the heat
Of his impeded soul would through his bosom eat.

XVI.

Self-exiled Harold wanders forth again,
With nought of hope left, but with less of gloom;
The very knowledge that he lived in vain,

That all was over on this side the tomb,
Had made Despair a smilingness assume,
Which, though 'twere wild—as on the plunder'd wreck
When mariners would madly meet their doom
With draughts intemperate on the sinking deck—
Did yet inspire a cheer, which he forbore to check.

XVII.

Stop! for thy tread is on an Empire's dust!
An Earthquake's spoil is sepulchred below!
Is the spot mark'd with no colossal bust?
Nor column trophied for triumphal show?
None; but the moral's truth tells simpler so,
As the ground was before, thus let it be;—
How that red rain hath made the harvest grow!
And is this all the world has gain'd by thee,
Thou first and last of fields! king-making Victory?

XVIII.

And Harold stands upon this place of skulls,
The grave of France, the deadly Waterloo!
How in an hour the power which gave annuls
Its gifts, transferring fame as fleeting too!
In "pride of place"* here last the eagle flew,
Then tore with bloody talon the rent plain,
Pierced by the shaft of banded nations through;
Ambition's life and labors all were vain:
He wears the shatter'd links of the world's broken chain.

XIX.

Fit retribution! Gaul may champ the bit,
And foam in fetters, but is Earth more free?
Did nations combat to make *One* submit;
Or league to teach all kings true sovereignty?
What! shall reviving Thraldom again be
The patch'd-up idol of enlighten'd days?
Shall we, who struck the Lion down, shall we
Pay the Wolf homage? proffering lowly gaze
And servile knees to thrones? No; *prove* before ye praise!

XX.

If not, o'er one fallen despot boast no more!
In vain fair cheeks were furrow'd with hot tears
For Europe's flowers long rooted up before
The trampler of her vineyards; in vain years
Of death, depopulation, bondage, fears,
Have all been borne, and broken by the accord
Of roused-up millions: all that most endears
Glory, is when the myrtle wreathes a sword
Such as Harmodius drew on Athens' tyrant lord.†

* "In pride of place" is a term of falconry, and means the highest pitch of flight. See "Macbeth," etc. "An eagle towering in his pride of place," etc.

† See the famous song on Harmodius and Aristogiton. The best English translation is in "Bland's Anthology," by Mr. (now Lord Chief Justice) Denman:
"With myrtle my sword will I wreathe," etc.

XXI.

There was a sound of revelry by night,
And Belgium's capital had gather'd then
Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and bright
The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men;
A thousand hearts beat happily; and when
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
Soft eyes look'd love to eyes which spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage bell;*
But hush! hark! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell!

XXII.

Did ye not hear it?—No; 'twas but the wind,
Or the car rattling o'er the stony street;
On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet [feet.
To chase the glowing Hours with flying
But hark! that heavy sound breaks in once more,
As if the clouds its echo would repeat;
And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!
Arm! arm! it is—it is—the cannon's opening roar!

XXIII.

Within a window'd niche of that high hall
Sate Brunswick's fated chieftain; he did hear
That sound, the first amidst the festival,
And caught its tone with Death's prophetic ear; [it near.
And when they smiled because he deem'd
His heart more truly knew that peal too well
Which stretch'd his father on a bloody bier,
And roused the vengeance blood alone could quell: [ing, fell.
He rush'd into the field, and, foremost fight-

XXIV.

Ah! then and there was hurrying to and fro,
And gathering tears, and tremblings of distress,
And cheeks all pale, which but an hour ago
Blush'd at the praise of their own loveliness;
And there were sudden partings, such as press [ing sighs
The life from out young hearts, and chok-
Which ne'er might be repeated: who could guess
If ever more should meet those mutual eyes,
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn could rise!

XXV.

And there was mounting in hot haste: the steed, [car,
The mustering squadron, and the clattering
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war;
And the deep thunder peal on peal afar;
And near, the beat of the alarming drum

* On the night previous to the action, it is said that a ball was given at Brussels.

Roused up the soldier ere the morning star;
While throng'd the citizens with terror dumb,
Or whispering with white lips—"The foe! They come! they come!"

XXVI.

And wild and high the "Cameron's gathering" rose,
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn's hills
Have heard, and heard, too, have her Saxon foes;
How in the noon of night that pibroch thrills
Savage and shrill! But with the breath which fills
Their mountain pipe, so fill the mountaineers
With the fierce native daring which instils
The stirring memory of a thousand years,
And Evan's, Donald's fame rings in each clansman's ears!*

XXVII.

And Ardennes waves above them her green leaves,†
Dewy with Nature's tear-drops, as they pass,
Grieving, if aught inanimate e'er grieves,
Over the unreturning brave,—alas!
Ere evening to be trodden like the grass
Which now beneath them, but above shall grow
In its next verdure, when this fiery mass
Of living valor, rolling on the foe,
And burning with high hope, shall moulder cold and low.

XXVIII.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,
Last eve in Beauty's circle proudly gay,
The midnight brought the signal-sound of strife,
The morn the marshalling in arms—the day
Battle's magnificently stern array! The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which when rent
The earth is cover'd thick with other clay,
Which her own clay shall cover, heap'd and pent,
Rider and horse—friend, foe,—in one red burial blent!

XXIX.

Their praise is hymn'd by loftier harps than mine;
Yet one I would select from that proud throng,
Partly because they blend me with his line,
And partly that I did his sire some wrong,
And partly that bright names will hallow song;
And his was of the bravest, and when shower'd
The death-bolts deadliest the thinn'd files along,
Even where the thickest of war's tempest lower'd,
They reach'd no nobler breast than thine, young, gallant Howard!

XXX.

There have been tears and breaking hearts for thee,
And mine were nothing, had I such to give;
But when I stood beneath the fresh green tree,
Which living waves where thou didst cease to live,
And saw around me the wide field revive
With fruits and fertile promise, and the Spring
Come forth her work of gladness to contrive,
With all her reckless birds upon the wing,
I turn'd from all she brought to those she could not bring.*

XXXI.

I turn'd to thee, to thousands, of whom each
And one as all a ghastly gap did make
In his own kind and kindred, whom to teach
Forgetfulness were mercy for their sake;
The Archangel's trump, not Glory's, must awake
Those whom they thirst for; though the sound of Fame
May for a moment soothe, it cannot slake
The fever of vain longing, and the name
So honor'd, but assumes a stronger, bitterer claim.

XXXII.

They mourn, but smile at length; and, smiling, mourn;
The tree will wither long before it fall;
The hull drives on, though mast and sail be torn;
The roof-tree sinks, but moulders on the hall
In massy hoariness; the ruin'd wall
Stands when its wind-worn battlements are gone;
The bars survive the captive they enthral;
The day drags through though storms keep out the sun;
And thus the heart will break, yet brokenly live on:

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* Sir Evan Cameron, and his descendant Donald, the "gentle Lochiel" of the "forty-five."

† The wood of Soignies is supposed to be a remnant of the forest of Ardennes, famous in Boiardo's "Orlando," and immortal in Shakspeare's "As You Like It." It is also celebrated in Tacitus, as being the spot of successful defence by the Germans against the Roman encroachments. I have ventured to adopt the name connected with nobler associations than those of mere slaughter.

* My guide from Mont St. Jean over the field seemed intelligent and accurate. The place where Major Howard fell was not far from two tall and solitary trees (there was a third, cut down, or shivered, in the battle), which stand a few yards from each other at a pathway's side. Beneath these he died and was buried. The body has since been removed to England. A small hollow for the present marks where it lay, but will probably soon be effaced; the plough has been upon it, and the grain is. After pointing out the different spots where Picton and other gallant men had perished, the guide said, "Here Major Howard lay: I was near him when wounded." I told him my relationship, and he seemed then still more anxious to point out the particular spot and circumstances. The place is one of the most marked in the field, from the peculiarity of the two trees above mentioned. I went on horseback twice over the field, comparing it with my recollection of similar scenes. As a plain, Waterloo seems marked out for the scene of some great action, though this may be mere imagination. I have viewed with attention those of Platea, Troy, Mantinea, Leuctra, Chæronea, and Marathon, and the field around Mont St. Jean and Hougoumont appears to want little but a better cause, and that undefinable but impressive halo which the lapse of ages throws around a celebrated spot, to vie in interest with any or all of these, except perhaps the last mentioned.

XXXIII.

Even as a broken mirror, which the glass
In every fragment multiplies; and makes
A thousand images of one that was,
The same, and still the more, the more it breaks;
And thus the heart will do which not forsakes,
Living in shatter'd guise, and still, and cold,
And bloodless, with its sleepless sorrow aches,
Yet withers on till all without is old,
Showing no visible sign, for such things are untold.

XXXIV.

There is a very life in our despair,
Vitality of poison,—a quick root
Which feeds these deadly branches; for it were
As nothing did we die; but life will suit
Itself to Sorrow's most detested fruit,
Like to the apples on the Dead Sea's shore,*
All ashes to the taste: Did man compute
Existence by enjoyment, and count o'er
Such hours 'gainst years of life,—say, would he name threescore?

XXXV.

The Psalmist number'd out the years of man;
They are enough: and if thy tale be *true*,
Thou, who didst grudge him even that fleeting span,
More than enough, thou fatal Waterloo!
Millions of tongues record thee, and anew
Their children's lips shall echo them, and say,
"Here, where the sword united nations drew,
Our countrymen were warring on that day!"
And this is much, and all which will not pass away.

XXXVI.

There sunk the greatest, nor the worst of men,
Whose spirit antithetically mixt
One moment of the mightiest, and again
On little objects with like firmness fixt,
Extreme in all things! hadst thou been betwixt,
Thy throne had still been thine, or never been;
For daring made thy rise as fall: thou seek'st
Even now to reassume the imperial mien,
And shake again the world, the Thunderer of the scene!

XXXVII.

Conqueror and captive of the earth art thou!
She trembles at thee still, and thy wild name
Was ne'er more bruited in men's minds than now
That thou art nothing save the jest of Fame,
Who woo'd thee once, thy vassal, and became
The flatterer of thy fierceness, till thou wert
A god unto thyself; nor less the same
To the astounded kingdoms all inert,
Who deem'd thee for a time whate'er thou didst assert.

XXXVIII.

Oh, more or less than man—in high or low,
Battling with nations, flying from the field;
Now making monarchs' necks thy footstool, now
More than thy meanest soldier taught to yield:
An empire thou couldst crush, command, rebuild,
But govern not thy pettiest passion, nor,
However deeply in men's spirits skill'd,
Look through thine own, nor curb the lust of war,
Nor learn that tempted Fate will leave the loftiest star.

XXXIX.

Yet well thy soul hath brook'd the turning tide
With that untaught innate philosophy,
Which, be it wisdom, coldness, or deep pride,
Is gall and wormwood to an enemy.
When the whole host of hatred stood hard by,
To watch and mock thee shrinking, thou hast smiled
With a sedate and all-enduring eye;—
When Fortune fled her spoil'd and favorite child,
He stood unbow'd beneath the ills upon him piled.

XL.

Sager than in thy fortunes; for in them
Ambition steel'd thee on too far to show
That just habitual scorn, which could contemn
Men and their thoughts; 'twas wise to feel,
To wear it ever on thy lip and brow,
And spurn the instruments thou wert to use
Till they were turn'd unto thine overthrow:
'Tis but a worthless world to win or lose;
So hath it proved to thee, and all such lot who choose.

XLI.

If, like a tower upon a headland rock,
Thou hadst been made to stand or fall alone,
Such scorn of man had help'd to brave the shock;
But men's thoughts were the steps which paved thy throne,
Their admiration thy best weapon shone;
The part of Philip's son was thine, not then
(Unless aside thy purple had been thrown)
Like stern Diogenes to mock at men;
For sceptred cynics earth were far too wide a den.*

* The (fabled) apples on the brink of the lake Asphaltes were said to be fair without and within ashes. Vide TACITUS, Histor. lib. v. 7.

* The great error of Napoleon, "if we have writ our annals true," was a continued obtrusion on mankind of his want of all community of feeling for or with them; perhaps more offensive to human vanity than the active cruelty of more trembling and suspicious tyranny. Such were his speeches to public assemblies as well as individuals; and the single expression which he is said to have used on returning to Paris after the Russian winter had destroyed his army, rubbing his hands over a fire, "This is pleasanter than Moscow," would probably alienate more favor from his cause than the destruction and reverses which led to the remark.

XLII.

But quiet to quick bosoms is a hell,
And *there* hath been thy bane; there is a fire
And motion of the soul, which will not dwell
In its own narrow being, but aspire
Beyond the fitting medium of desire;
And, but once kindled, quenchless evermore,
Preys upon high adventure, nor can tire
Of aught but rest; a fever at the core,
Fatal to him who bears, to all who ever bore.

XLIII.

This makes the madmen who have made men mad
By their contagion! Conquerors and Kings,
Founders of sects and systems, to whom add
Sophists, Bards, Statesmen, all unquiet things
Which stir too strongly the soul's secret springs,
And are themselves the fools to those they fool;
Envied, yet how unenviable! what stings
Are theirs! One breast laid open were a school
Which would unteach mankind the lust to shine or rule:

XLIV.

Their breath is agitation, and their life
A storm whereon they ride, to sink at last,
And yet so nursed and bigoted to strife,
That should their days, surviving perils past,
Melt to calm twilight, they feel overcast
With sorrow and supineness, and so die;
Even as a flame unfed, which runs to waste
With its own flickering, or a sword laid by,
Which eats into itself, and rusts ingloriously.

XLV.

He who ascends to mountain-tops, shall find
The loftiest peaks most wrapt in clouds and snow;
He who surpasses or subdues mankind,
Must look down on the hate of those below.
Though high *above* the sun of glory glow,
And far *beneath* the earth and ocean spread,
Round him are icy rocks, and loudly blow
Contending tempests on his naked head,
And thus reward the toils which to those summits led.

XLVI.

Away with these! true Wisdom's world will be
Within its own creation, or in thine,
Maternal Nature! for who teems like thee,
Thus on the banks of thy majestic Rhine?
There Harold gazes on a work divine,
A blending of all beauties; streams and dells,
Fruit, foliage, crag, wood, corn-field, mountain, vine,
And chiefless castles breathing stern farewells
From grey but leafy walls, where Ruin greenly dwells.

XLVII.

And there they stand, as stands a lofty mind,
Worn, but unstooping to the baser crowd;
All tenantless, save to the crannying wind,
Or holding dark communion with the cloud.
There was a day when they were young and proud,
Banners on high, and battles pass'd below;
But they who fought are in a bloody shroud,
And those which waved are shredless dust ere now,
And the bleak battlements shall bear no future blow.

XLVIII.

Beneath these battlements, within those walls,
Power dwelt amidst her passions; in proud state
Each robber chief upheld his armed halls,
Doing his evil will, nor less elate
Than mightier heroes of a longer date.
What want these outlaws conquerors should have*
But History's purchased page to call them great?
A wider space, an ornamented grave?
Their hopes were not less warm, their souls were full as brave.

XLIX.

In their baronial feuds and single fields,
What deeds of prowess unrecorded died!
And Love, which lent a blazon to their shields,
With emblems well devised by amorous pride,
Through all the mail of iron hearts would glide;
But still their flame was fierceness, and drew on
Keen contest and destruction near allied,
And many a tower for some fair mischief won,
Saw the discolor'd Rhine beneath its ruin run.

L.

But Thou, exulting and abounding river!
Making thy waves a blessing as they flow
Through banks whose beauty would endure forever,
Could man but leave thy bright creation so,
Nor its fair promise from the surface mow
With the sharp scythe of conflict,—then to see
Thy valley of sweet waters, were to know
Earth paved like Heaven; and to seem such to me
Even now what wants thy stream?—that it should Lethe be.

LI.

A thousand battles have assail'd thy banks,
But these and half their fame have pass'd away,
And Slaughter heap'd on high his weltering ranks:
Their very graves are gone, and what are they?
Thy tide wash'd down the blood of yesterday,
And all was stainless, and on thy clear stream
Glass'd with its dancing light the sunny ray,
But o'er the blacken'd memory's blighting dream
Thy waves would vainly roll, all sweeping as they seem.

* "What wants that knave that a king should have?" was King James's question on meeting Johnny Armstrong and his followers in full accoutrements.—See the Ballad.

LII.

Thus Harold inly said, and pass'd along,
Yet not insensible to all which here
Awoke the jocund birds to early song [dear;
In glens which might have made even exile
Though on his brow were graven lines austere,
And tranquil sternness which had ta'en the
Of feelings fierier far but less severe, [place
Joy was not always absent from his face,
But o'er it in such scenes would steal with
transient trace.

LIII.

Nor was all love shut from him, though his
days [dust.
Of passion had consumed themselves to
It is in vain that we would coldly gaze
On such as smile upon us; the heart must
Leap kindly back to kindness, though disgust [felt,
Hath wean'd it from all worldlings: thus he
For there was soft remembrance, and sweet
trust [melt,
In one fond breast, to which his own would
And in its tenderer hour on that his bosom
dwelt.

LIV.

And he had learn'd to love—I know not why,
For this in such as him seems strange of
mood,—
The helpless looks of blooming infancy,
Even in its earliest nurture; what subdued,
To change like this, a mind so far imbued
With scorn of man, it little boots to know;
But thus it was; and though in solitude
Small power the nipp'd affections have to
grow, [to glow.
In him this glow'd when all beside had ceased

LV.

And there was one soft breast, as hath been
said,
Which unto his was bound by stronger ties
Than the church links withal; and, though
unwed,
That love was pure, and, far above disguise,
Had stood the test of mortal enmities
Still undivided, and cemented more
By peril, dreaded most in female eyes;
But this was firm, and from a foreign shore
Well to that heart might his these absent
greetings pour!

The castled crag of Drachenfels*
Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine,
Whose breast of waters broadly swells
Between the banks which bear the vine,
And hills all rich with blossom'd trees,
And fields which promise corn and wine,
And scatter'd cities crowning these,
Whose far white walls along them shine,
Have strew'd a scene, which I should see
With double joy wert *thou* with me!

And peasant girls, with deep-blue eyes,
And hands which offer early flowers,
Walk smiling o'er this paradise;
Above, the frequent feudal towers [grey,
Through green leaves lift their walls of
And many a rock which steeply lours,
And noble arch in proud decay,
Look o'er this vale of vintage bowers;
But one thing want these banks of
Rhine—
Thy gentle hand to clasp in mine!

I send the lilies given to me;
Though long before thy hand they touch,
I know that they must wither'd be,
But yet reject them not as such;
For I have cherish'd them as dear,
Because they yet may meet thine eye,
And guide thy soul to mine even here,
When thou behold'st them drooping nigh,
And know'st them gather'd by the Rhine,
And offer'd from my heart to thine!

The river nobly foams and flows,
The charm of this enchanted ground,
And all its thousand turns disclose
Some fresher beauty varying round;
The haughtiest breast its wish might
bound
Through life to dwell delighted here;
Nor could on earth a spot be found
To nature and to me so dear,
Could thy dear eyes in following mine
Still sweeten more these banks of Rhine.

LVI.

By Coblentz, on a rise of gentle ground,
There is a small and simple pyramid,
Crowning the summit of the verdant
mound;
Beneath its base are heroes' ashes hid,
Our enemy's,—but let not that forbid
Honor to Marceau! o'er whose early tomb
Tears, big tears, gush'd from the rough
soldier's lid,
Lamenting and yet envying such a doom,
Falling for France, whose rights he battled to
resume.

LVII.

Brief, brave, and glorious was his young
career,— [and foes;
His mourners were two hosts, his friends
And fitly may the stranger lingering here
Pray for his gallant spirit's bright repose;
For he was Freedom's champion, one of
those,
The few in number, who had not o'erstept
The charter to chastise which she bestows

* The castle of Drachenfels stands on the highest summit of "The Seven Mountains," over the Rhine banks; it is in ruins, and connected with some singular traditions. It is the first in view on the road from Bonn, but on the opposite side of the river. On this bank, nearly facing it, are the remains of another, called the Jew's Castle, and a large cross commemorative of the murder of a chief by his brother. The number of castles and cities along the course of the Rhine on both sides is very great, and their situations remarkably beautiful.

On such as wield her weapons; he had kept
The whiteness of his soul, and thus men o'er
him wept.*

LVIII.

Here Ehrenbreitstein,† with her shatter'd wall
Black with the miner's blast, upon her height
Yet shows of what she was, when shell and ball
Rebounding idly on her strength did light;
A tower of victory! from whence the flight
Of baffled foes was watch'd along the plain:
But Peace destroy'd what War could never blight, [mer's rain—
And laid those proud roofs bare to Sum-
On which the iron shower for years had
pour'd in vain.

LIX.

Adieu, to thee, fair Rhine! How long delighted
The stranger fain would linger on his way!
Thine is a scene alike where souls united
Or lonely Contemplation thus might stray;
And could the ceaseless vulture cease to prey
On self-condemning bosoms, it were here,
Where Nature, nor too sombre nor too gay,
Wild but not rude, awful yet not austere,
Is to the mellow Earth as Autumn to the year.

LX.

Adieu to thee again! a vain adieu!
There can be no farewell to scene like thine;
The mind is color'd by thy every hue;
And if reluctantly the eyes resign [Rhine!
Their cherish'd gaze upon thee, lovely
'Tis with the thankful glance of parting
praise: [shine,
More mighty spots may rise—more glaring
But none unite in one attaching maze
The brilliant, fair, and soft;—the glories of
old days.

LXI.

The negligently grand, the fruitful bloom
Of coming ripeness, the white city's sheen,
The rolling stream, the precipice's gloom,
The forest's growth, and Gothic walls
between, [been
The wild rocks shaped as they had turrets
In mockery of man's art: and these withal
A race of faces happy as the scene,
Whose fertile bounties here extend to all,
Still springing o'er thy banks, though Empires near them fall.

LXII.

But these recede. Above me are the Alps,
The palaces of Nature, whose vast walls
Have pinnacled in clouds their snowy scalps,
And throned Eternity in icy halls
Of cold sublimity, where forms and falls
The avalanche—the thunderbolt of snow!
All that expands the spirit, yet appals,
Gather around these summits, as to show
How Earth may pierce to Heaven, yet leave
vain man below.

LXIII.

But ere these matchless heights I dare to
scan, [vain,—
There is a spot should not be passed in
Morat! the proud, the patriot field! where
man
May gaze on ghastly trophies of the slain,
Nor blush for those who conquer'd on that
plain; [host,
Here Burgundy bequeathed his tombless
A bony heap, through ages to remain,
Themselves their monument;—the Stygian
coast [wandering ghost.*
Unsepulchred they roam'd, and shriek'd each

LXIV.

While Waterloo with Cannæ's carnage vies,
Morat and Marathon twin names shall
stand;
They were true Glory's stainless victories,
Won by the unambitious heart and hand
Of a proud, brotherly, and civic band,
All unbought champions in no princely
cause
Of vice-entail'd Corruption; they no land

* The monument of the young and lamented General Marceau (killed by a rifle-ball at Alterkirchen on the last day of the fourth year of the French Republic) still remains as described. The inscriptions on his monument are rather too long, and not required his name was enough. France adored, and her enemies admired; both wept over him. His funeral was attended by the generals and detachments from both armies. In the same grave General Hoche is interred, a gallant man also in every sense of the word; but though he distinguished himself greatly in battle, he had not the good fortune to die there: his death was attended by suspicions of poison. A separate monument (not over his body, which is buried by Marceau's) is raised for him near Andernach, opposite to which one of the most memorable exploits was performed, in throwing a bridge to an island on the Rhine. The shape and style are different from that of Marceau's, and the inscription more simple and pleasing: "The Army of the Sambre and Meuse to its Commander-in-Chief, Hoche." This is all, and as it should be. Hoche was esteemed among the first of France's earlier generals, before Bonaparte monopolized her triumphs. He was the destined commander of the invading army of Ireland.

† Ehrenbreitstein, i.e., "the broad stone of honor," one of the strongest fortresses in Europe, was dismantled and blown up by the French at the truce of Leoben. It had been, and could only be, reduced by famine or treachery. It yielded to the former, aided by surprise. After having seen the fortifications of Gibraltar and Malta, it did not much strike by comparison; but the situation is commanding. General Marceau besieged it in vain for some time; and I slept in a room where I was shown a window at which he was said to have been standing, observing the progress of the siege by moon light, when a ball struck immediately below it.

* The chapel is destroyed and the pyramid of bones diminished to a small number by the Burgundian legion in the service of France, who anxiously effaced this record of their ancestors' less successful invasions. A few still remain, notwithstanding the pains taken by the Burgundians of all ages (all who passed that way removing a bone to their own country), and the less justifiable larcenies of the Swiss postilions, who carried them off to sell for knife-handles,—a purpose for which the whiteness imbibed by the bleaching of years had rendered them in great request.

Of these relics I ventured to bring away as much as may have made a quarter of a hero, for which the sole excuse is, that if I had not, the next passer-by might have perverted them to worse uses than the careful preservation I intend for them.

Doom'd to bewail the blasphemy of laws
Making kings' right divine, by some Draconic clause.

LXV.

By a lone wall a lonelier column rears
A grey and grief-worn aspect of old days,
'Tis the last remnant of the wreck of years,
And looks as with the wild bewilder'd gaze
Of one to stone converted by amaze,
Yet still with consciousness; and there it
Making a marvel that it not decays, [stands,
When the coeval pride of human hands,
Levell'd Aventicum, hath strew'd her subject lands.*

LXVI.

And there—oh! sweet and sacred be the name!—
Julia—the daughter, the devoted—gave
Her youth to Heaven; her heart, beneath a claim [grave.
Nearest to Heaven's, broke o'er a father's
Justice is sworn 'gainst tears, and hers would crave
The life she lived in; but the judge was just,
And then she died on him she could not save.
Their tomb was simple, and without a bust,
And held within their urn one mind, one heart, one dust.†

LXVII.

But these are deeds which should not pass away, [earth
And names that must not wither, though the
Forgets her empires with a just decay,
The enslavers and the enslaved, their death and birth;
The high, the mountain-majesty of worth,
Should be, and shall, survivor of its woe,
And from its immortality look forth
In the sun's face, like yonder Alpine snow,‡
Imperishably pure beyond all things below.

LXVIII.

Lake Leman woos me with its crystal face,
The mirror where the stars and mountains view

The stillness of their aspect in each trace
Its clear depth yields of their far height and hue; [through
There is too much of man here, to look
With a fit mind the might which I behold;
But soon in me shall Loneliness renew
Thoughts hid, but not less cherish'd than of old, [their fold.
Ere mingling with the herd had penn'd me in

LXIX.

To fly from, need not be to hate, mankind;
All are not fit with them to stir and toil,
Nor is it discontent to keep the mind
Deep in its fountain, lest it overboil
In one hot throng, where we become the
Of our infection, till too late and long [spoil
We may deplore and struggle with the coil,
In wretched interchange of wrong for wrong [none are strong.
'Midst a contentious world, striving where

LXX.

There, in a moment, we may plunge our years
In fatal penitence, and in the blight
Of our own soul turn all our blood to tears,
And color things to come with hues of Night:
The race of life becomes a hopeless flight
To those that walk in darkness; on the sea,
The boldest steer but where their ports in-
But there are wanderers o'er Eternity [vite,
Whose bark drives on and on, and anchor'd ne'er shall be.

LXXI.

Is it not better, then, to be alone,
And love Earth only for its earthly sake?
By the blue rushing of the arrowy Rhone,*
Or the pure bosom of its nursing lake,
Which feeds it as a mother who doth make
A fair but froward infant her own care,
Kissing its cries away as these awake;—
Is it not better thus our lives to wear,
Than join the crushing crowd, doom'd to inflict or bear?

LXXII.

I live not in myself, but I become
Portion of that around me: and to me,
High mountains are a feeling, but the hum
Of human cities torture; I can see
Nothing to loathe in nature, save to be
A link reluctant in a fleshly chain,
Class'd among creatures, when the soul can flee, [plain
And with the sky, the peak, the heaving
Of ocean, or the stars, mingle, and not in vain.

LXXIII.

And thus I am absorb'd, and this is life:
I look upon the peopled desert past,
As on a place of agony and strife,
Where, for some sin, to Sorrow I was cast,

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* Aventicum, near Morat, was the Roman capital of Helvetia, where Avenches now stands.

† Julia Alpinula, a young Aventian priestess, died soon after a vain endeavor to save her father, condemned to death as a traitor by Aulus Cæcina. Her epitaph was discovered many years ago. It is thus: "Julia Alpinula: Hic jaceo. Infelicis patris infelix proles. Deæ Aventiæ Sacerdos. Exorare patris necem non potui: Male mori in fatis ille erat. Vixi annos XXIII." I know of no human composition so affecting as this, nor a history of deeper interest. These are the names and actions which ought not to perish, and to which we turn with a true and healthy tenderness, from the wretched and glittering detail of a confused mass of conquests and battles, with which the mind is roused for a time to a false and feverish sympathy, from whence it recurs at length with all the nausea consequent on such intoxication.

‡ This is written in the eye of Mont Blanc (June 3d, 1816), which even at this distance dazzles mine. (July 20th.)—I this day observed for some time the distinct reflection of Mont Blanc and Mont Argentiere in the calm of the lake, which I was crossing in my boat. The distance of these mountains from their mirror is sixty miles.

* The color of the Rhone at Geneva is blue, to a depth of tint which I have never seen equalled in water, salt or fresh, except in the Mediterranean and Archipelago

To act and suffer, but remount at last
With a fresh pinion; which I felt to spring,
Though young, yet waxing vigorous as the blast [wing,
Which it would cope with, on delighted
Spurning the clay-cold bonds which round our being cling.

LXXIV.

And when, at length, the mind shall be all free
From what it hates in this degraded form,
Reft of its carnal life, save what shall be
Existent happier in the fly and worm,—
When elements to elements conform,
And dust is as it should be, shall I not
Feel all I see, less dazzling, but more warm?
The bodiless thought? the Spirit of each spot? [mortal lot?
Of which, even now, I share at times the im-

LXXV.

Are not the mountains, waves, and skies a
Of me and of my soul, as I of them? [part
Is not the love of these deep in my heart
With a pure passion? should I not contemn
All objects, if compared with these? and
A tide of suffering rather than forego [stem
Such feelings for the hard and worldly phlegm
Of those whose eyes are only turn'd below,
Gazing upon the ground, with thoughts which dare not glow?

LXXVI.

But this is not my theme; and I return
To that which is immediate, and require
Those who find contemplation in the urn,
To look on One whose dust was once all fire,
A native of the land where I respire
The clear air for awhile—a passing guest,
Where he became a being—whose desire
Was to be glorious: 'twas a foolish quest,
The which to gain and keep he sacrificed all rest.

LXXVII.

Here the self-torturing sophist, wild Rousseau,
The apostle of affliction, he who threw
Enchantment over passion, and from woe
Wrung overwhelming eloquence, first drew
The breath which made him wretched; yet he knew
How to make madness beautiful, and cast
O'er erring deeds and thoughts, a heavenly hue [past
Of words like sunbeams, dazzling as they
The eyes, which o'er them shed tears feelingly and fast.

LXXVIII.

His love was passion's essence—as a tree
On fire by lightning; with ethereal flame
Kindled he was, and blasted; for to be
Thus, and enamour'd, were in him the same.
But his was not the love of living dame,
Nor of the dead who rise upon our dreams,
But of ideal beauty, which became
In him existence, and o'erflowing teems
Along his burning page, distemper'd though it seems.

LXXIX.

This breathed itself to life in Julie, *this*
Invested her with all that's wild and sweet:
This hallow'd, too, the memorable kiss*
Which every morn his fever'd lip would greet, [would meet:
From hers who but with friendship his
But to that gentle touch, through brain and breast [heat;
Flash'd the thrill'd spirit's love-devouring
In that absorbing sigh perchance more blest, [possest.
Than vulgar minds may be with all they seek

LXXX.

His life was one long war with self-sought foes,
Or friends by him self-banish'd; for his mind
Had grown Suspicion's sanctuary, and chose
For its own cruel sacrifice, the kind
'Gainst whom he raged with fury strange and blind. [know?
But he was frenzied,—wherefore, who may
Since cause might be which skill could never find;
But he was frenzied by disease or woe
To that worst pitch of all, which wears a reasoning show.

LXXXI.

For then he was inspired, and from him came,
As from the Pythian's mystic cave of yore,
Those oracles which set the world in flame,
Nor ceased to burn till kingdoms were no more:
Did he not this for France, which lay before
Bow'd to the inborn tyranny of years?
Broken and trembling to the yoke she bore,
Till by the voice of him and his compeers
Roused up to too much wrath, which follows o'ergrown fears?

LXXXII.

They made themselves a fearful monument!
The wreck of old opinions—things which grew, [rent,
Breathed from the birth of time: the veil they
And what behind it lay all earth shall view,
But good with ill they also overthrew,
Leaving but ruins, wherewith to rebuild
Upon the same foundation, and renew

* This refers to the account in his "Confessions" of his passion for the Comtesse d'Houdetot (the mistress of St. Lambert), and his long walk every morning, for the sake of the single kiss which was the common salutation of French acquaintance. Rousseau's description of his feelings on this occasion may be considered as the most passionate, yet not impure, description and expression of love that ever kindled into words; which, after all, must be felt, from their very force, to be inadequate to the delineation. A painting can give no sufficient idea of the ocean,

Dungeons and thrones, which the same hour refill'd,
As heretofore, because ambition was self-[will'd.

LXXXIII.

But this will not endure, nor be endured!
Mankind have felt their strength, and made it felt.
They might have used it better, but, allur'd
By their new vigor, sternly have they dealt
On one another; pity ceased to melt
With her once natural charities. But they,
Who in oppression's darkness caved had dwelt, [day;
They were not eagles, nourish'd with the
What marvel then, at times, if they mistook their prey?

LXXXIV.

What deep wounds ever closed without a scar? [wear
The heart's bleed longest, and but heal to
That which disfigures it; and they who war
With their own hopes, and have been vanquish'd, bear
Silence, but not submission: in his lair
Fix'd Passion holds his breath, until the hour [spair:
Which shall atone for years; none need de-
It came, it cometh, and will come,—the power [slower.
To punish or forgive—in *one* we shall be

LXXXV.

Clear, placid Leman! thy contrasted lake,
With the wild world I dwelt in, is a thing
Which warns me, with its stillness, to forsake
Earth's troubled waters for a purer spring.
This quiet sail is as a noiseless wing
To waft me from distraction; once I loved
Torn ocean's roar, but thy soft murmuring
Sounds sweet as if a Sister's voice reproved,
That I with stern delights should e'er have been so moved.

LXXXVI.

It is the hush of night, and all between
Thy margin and the mountains, dusk, yet clear,
Mellow'd and mingling, yet distinctly seen,
Save darken'd Jura, whose capt heights appear
Precipitously steep; and drawing near,
There breathes a living fragrance from the shore, [ear
Of flowers yet fresh with childhood; on the
Drops the light drip of the suspended oar,
Or chirps the grasshopper one good-night carol more;

LXXXVII.

He is an evening reveller, who makes
His life an infancy, and sings his fill;
At intervals, some bird from out the brakes
Starts into voice a moment, then is still.
There seems a floating whisper on the hill,
But that is fancy, for the starlight dews
All silently their tears of love instil,
Weeping themselves away, till they infuse
Deep into Nature's breast the spirit of her hues.

LXXXVIII.

Ye stars! which are the poetry of heaven,
If in your bright leaves we would read the fate
Of men and empires,—'tis to be forgiven,
That in our aspirations to be great,
Our destinies o'erleap their mortal state,
And claim a kindred with you; for ye are
A beauty and a mystery, and create
In us such love and reverence from afar,
That fortune, fame, power, life, have named themselves a star.

LXXXIX.

All heaven and earth are still—though not in sleep, [most;
But breathless, as we grow when feeling
And silent, as we stand in thoughts too deep:— [high host
All heaven and earth are still: From the
Of stars, to the lull'd lake and mountain-coast,
All is concenter'd in a life intense,
Where not a beam, nor air, nor leaf is lost,
But hath a part of being, and a sense
Of that which is of all Creator and defence.

XC.

Then stirs the feeling infinite, so felt
In solitude, where we are *least* alone;
A truth which through our being then doth melt,
And purifies from self: it is a tone,
The soul and source of music, which makes known
Eternal harmony, and sheds a charm,
Like to the fabled Cytherea's zone,
Binding all things with beauty;—'twould disarm [to harm.
The spectre Death, had he substantial power

XCI.

Not vainly did the early Persian make
His altar the high places and the peak
Of earth-o'ergazing mountains, and thus take*
A fit and unwall'd temple, there to seek
The Spirit, in whose honor shrines are weak,
Uprear'd of human hands. Come, and compare
Columns and idol dwellings, Goth or Greek,
With Nature's realms of worship, earth and air, [prayer!
Nor fix on fond abodes to circumscribe thy

XCII.

The sky is changed!—and such a change! O night,† [strong,
And storm, and darkness, ye are wondrous

*See Note at end of volume.

†The thunder-storm to which these lines refer occurred on the 13th of June, 1816, at midnight. I have seen, among the Acroceraunian mountains at Chimari, several more terrible, but none more beautiful.

Yet lovely in your strength, as is the light
Of a dark eye in woman! Far along,
From peak to peak, the rattling crags among
Leaps the live thunder! Not from one lone cloud,
But every mountain now hath found a tongue,
And Jura answers, through her misty shroud,
Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her aloud!

XCIII.

And this is in the night:—Most glorious night!
Thou wert not sent for slumber! let me be
A sharer in thy fierce and far delight—
A portion of the tempest and of thee!
How the lit lake shines, a phosphoric sea,
And the big rain comes dancing to the earth!
And now again 'tis black,—and now, the glee
Of the loud hills shakes with its mountain-mirth,
As if they did rejoice o'er a young earthquake's birth.

XCIV

Now, where the swift Rhone cleaves his way between
Heights which appear as lovers who have parted
In hate, whose mining depths so intervene,
That they can meet no more, though broken-hearted!
Though in their souls, which thus each other thwarted,
Love was the very root of the fond rage
Which blighted their life's bloom, and then departed;
Itself expired, but leaving them an age
Of years all winters—war within themselves to wage.

XCV.

Now, where the quick Rhone thus hath cleft his way,
The mightiest of the storms hath ta'en his stand:
For here, not one, but many, make their play,
And fling their thunderbolts from hand to hand,
Flashing and cast around: of all the band,
The brightest through these parted hills hath fork'd
His lightnings—as if he did understand
That in such gaps as desolation work'd,
There the hot shaft should blast whatever therein lurk'd.

XCVI.

Sky, mountains, river, winds, lake, lightnings! ye,
With night, and clouds, and thunder, and a soul
To make these felt and feeling, well may be
Things that have made me watchful; the far roll
Of your departing voices, is the knoll
Of what in me is sleepless,—if I rest.
But where of ye, O tempests! is the goal?
Are ye like those within the human breast?
Or do ye find at length, like eagles, some high nest?

XCVII.

Could I embody and unbosom now
That which is most within me,—could I throw
My thoughts upon expression, and thus wreak
Soul, heart, mind, passions, feelings, strong or weak,
All that I would have sought, and all I seek,
Bear, know, feel, and yet breathe—into one word,
And that one word were Lightning, I would speak;
But as it is, I live and die unheard,
With a most voiceless thought, sheathing it as a sword.

XCVIII.

The morn is up again, the dewy morn,
With breath all incense, and with cheek all bloom,
Laughing the clouds away with playful scorn,
And living as if earth contain'd no tomb,—
And glowing into day: we may resume
The march of our existence: and thus I,
Still on thy shores, fair Leman! may find room
And food for meditation, nor pass by
Much, that may give us pause, if ponder'd fittingly.

XCIX.

Clarens! sweet Clarens! birthplace of deep Love!
Thine air is the young breath of passionate thought;
Thy trees take root in Love; the snows above
The very Glaciers have his colors caught,
And sunset into rose-hues sees them wrought*
By rays which sleep there lovingly; the rocks,
The permanent crags, tell here of Love, who sought
In them a refuge from the worldly shocks,
Which stir and sting the soul with hope that woos, then mocks.

C.

Clarens! by heavenly feet thy paths are trod—
Undying Love's, who here ascends a throne
To which the steps are mountains; where the god
Is a pervading life and light,—so shown
Not on those summits solely, nor alone
In the still cave and forest; o'er the flower
His eye is sparkling, and his breath hath blown,
His soft and summer breath, whose tender power
Passes the strength of storms in their most desolate hour.

CI.

All things are here of *him;* from the black pines,
Which are his shade on high, and the loud roar
Of torrents, where he listeneth, to the vines
Which slope his green path downward to the shore,
Where the bow'd waters meet him and adore,
Kissing his feet with murmurs; and the wood,

* See Note at end of volume.

The covert of old trees, with trunks all hoar,
But light leaves, young as joy, stands where it stood,
Offering to him, and his, a populous solitude.

CII.

A populous solitude of bees and birds,
And fairy-form'd and many-color'd things,
Who worship him with notes more sweet than words,
And innocently open their glad wings,
Fearless and full of life: the gush of springs,
And fall of lofty fountains, and the bend
Of stirring branches, and the bud which brings
The swiftest thought of beauty, here extend
Tingling, and made by Love, unto one mighty end.

CIII.

He who hath loved not, here would learn that lore,
And make his heart a spirit; he who knows
That tender mystery, will love the more,
For this is Love's recess, where vain men's woes, [from those,
And the world's waste, have driven him far
For 'tis his nature to advance or die;
He stands not still, but or decays, or grows
Into a boundless blessing, which may vie
With the immortal lights, in its eternity!

CIV.

'Twas not for fiction chose Rousseau this spot,
Peopling it with affections; but he found
It was the scene which Passion must allot
To the mind's purified beings; 'twas the ground
Where early Love his Psyche's zone unbound
And hallow'd it with loveliness: 'tis lone,
And wonderful, and deep, and hath a sound,
And sense, and sight of sweetness; here the Rhone [rear'd a throne.
Hath spread himself a couch, the Alps have

CV.

Lausanne! and Ferney! ye have been the abodes [name;*
Of names which unto you bequeath'd a
Mortals, who sought and found, by dangerous roads,
A path to perpetuity of fame: [aim
They were gigantic minds, and their steep
Was, Titan-like, on daring doubts to pile
Thoughts which should call down thunder, and the flame [while
Of Heaven, again assail'd, if Heaven the
On man and man's research could deign do more than smile.

CVI.

The one was fire and fickleness, a child
Most mutable in wishes, but in mind
A wit as various,—gay, grave, sage, or wild,—
Historian, bard, philosopher combined:
He multiplied himself among mankind,
The Proteus of their talents: But his own
Breathed most in ridicule,—which, as the wind [prone,—
Blew where it listed, laying all things
Now to o'erthrow a fool, and now to shake a throne.

CVII.

The other, deep and slow, exhausting thought [year,
And hiving wisdom with each studious
In meditation dwelt, with learning wrought,
And shaped his weapon with an edge severe,
Sapping a solemn creed with solemn sneer;
The lord of irony,—that master-spell,
Which stung his foes to wrath, which grew from fear,
And doom'd him to the zealot's ready Hell,
Which answers to all doubts so eloquently well.

CVIII.

Yet, peace be with their ashes,—for by them,
If merited, the penalty is paid;
It is not ours to judge,—far less condemn;
The hour must come when such things shall be made
Known unto all, or hope and dread allay'd
By slumber, on one pillow, in the dust,
Which, thus much we are sure, must lie decay'd:
And when it shall revive, as is our trust,
'Twill be to be forgiven, or suffer what is just.

CIX.

But let me quit man's works, again to read
His Maker's spread around me, and suspend
This page, which from my reveries I feed,
Until it seems prolonging without end.
The clouds above me to the white Alps tend,
And I must pierce them, and survey whate'er
May be permitted, as my steps I bend [where
To their most great and growing region,
The earth to her embrace compels the powers of air.

CX.

Italia! too, Italia! looking on thee
Full flashes on the soul the light of ages,
Since the fierce Carthaginian almost won
To the last halo of the chiefs and sages [thee,
Who glorify thy consecrated pages; [still,
Thou wert the throne and graves of empires;
The fount at which the panting mind assuages [fill,
Her thirst of knowledge, quaffing there her
Flows from the eternal source of Rome's imperial hill.

CXI.

Thus far have I proceeded in a theme
Renew'd with no kind auspices:—to feel
We are not what we have been, and to deem
We are not what we should be, and to steel
The heart against itself; and to conceal,
With a proud caution, love, or hate, or aught,—
Passion or feeling, purpose, grief, or zeal,—

* Voltaire and Gibbon.

Which is the tyrant spirit of our thought,
Is a stern task of soul:—No matter,—it is taught.

CXII.

And for these words, thus woven into song,
It may be that they are a harmless wile,—
The coloring of the scenes which fleet along,
Which I would seize, in passing, to beguile
My breast, or that of others, for a while.
Fame is the thirst of youth,—but I am not
So young as to regard men's frown or smile
As loss or guerdon of a glorious lot; [got.
I stood and stand alone,—remember'd or for-

CXIII.

I have not lovod the world, nor the world me; [bow'd
I have not flatter'd its rank breath, nor
To its idolatries a patient knee,— [aloud
Nor coin'd my cheek to smiles,—nor cried
In worship of an echo; in the crowd [stood
They could not deem me one of such; I
Among them, but not of them; in a shroud
Of thoughts which were not their thoughts, and still could, [subdued.
Had I not filed* my mind, which thus itself

CXIV.

I have not loved the world, nor the world
But let us part fair foes; I do believe, [me,—
Though I have found them not, that there may be [not deceive,
Words which are things,—hopes which will
And virtues which are merciful, nor weave
Snares for the failing; I would also deem
O'er others' griefs that some sincerely grieve;†
That two, or one, are almost what they seem,— [dream.
That goodness is no name, and happiness no

CXV.

My daughter! with thy name this song begun— [shall end—
My daughter! with thy name thus much

I see thee not, I hear thee not,—but none
Can be so wrapt in thee; thou art the friend
To whom the shadows of far years extend:
Albeit my brow thou never shouldst behold,
My voice shall with thy future visions blend,
And reach into thy heart, when mine is cold,— [mould.
A token and a tone, even from thy father's

CXVI.

To aid thy mind's development,—to watch
Thy dawn of little joys,—to sit and see
Almost thy very growth,—to view thee catch [thee!
Knowledge of objects,—wonders yet to
To hold thee lightly on a gentle knee,
And print on thy soft cheek a parent's kiss,— [me;
This, it should seem, was not reserved for
Yet this was in my nature:—As it is
I know not what is there, yet something like to this.

CXVII.

Yet, though dull Hate as duty should be taught, [name
I know that thou wilt love me; though my
Should be shut from thee, as a spell still fraught
With desolation,—and a broken claim:
Though the grave closed between us,—'twere the same, [drain
I know that thou wilt love me, though to
My blood from out thy being were an aim,
And an attainment,—all would be in vain,—
Still thou wouldst love me, still that more than life retain.

CXVIII.

The child of love,—though born in bitterness,
And nurtured in convulsion. Of thy sire
These were the elements—and thine no less.
As yet such are around thee—but thy fire
Shall be more temper'd, and thy hope far higher.
Sweet be thy cradled slumbers! O'er the sea,
And from the mountains where I now respire,
Fain would I waft such blessing upon thee,
As, with a sigh, I deem thou mightst have been to me!

*—"If it be thus,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind."—Macbeth.

† It is said by Rochefoucault that "there is always something in the misfortunes of men's best friends not displeasing to them."

CANTO THE FOURTH.

1818.

"Visto ho Toscana, Lombardia, Romagna,
Quel Monte che divide, e quel che serra
Italia, e un mare e l' altro, che la bagna."
Ariosto, Satira iii.

TO JOHN HOBHOUSE, ESQ., A.M., F.R.S., ETC., ETC., ETC.

MY DEAR HOBHOUSE, VENICE, January 2, 1818.

After an interval of eight years between the composition of the first and last cantos of Childe Harold, the conclusion of the poem is about to be submitted to the public. In parting with so old a friend, it is not extraordinary that I should recur to one still older and better—to one who has beheld the birth and death of the other.

hd to whom I am far more indebted for the social advantages of an enlightened friendship, than though not ungrateful I can, or could be, to Childe Harold, for any public favor reflected through the poem on the poet o one whom I have known long and accompanied far, whom I have found wakeful over my sickness and kind n my sorrow, glad in my prosperity and firm in my adversity, true in counsel and trusty in peril,—to a friend often tried and never found wanting; to yourself.

In so doing, I recur from fiction to truth; and in dedicating to you in its complete, or at least concluded state, poetical work which is the longest, the most thoughtful and comprehensive of my compositions, I wish to do honor to myself by the record of many years' intimacy with a man of learning, of talent, of steadiness, and of honor. It is not for minds like ours to give or to receive flattery: yet the praises of sincerity have ever been permitted to the voice of friendship; and it is not for you, nor even for others, but to relieve a heart which has not elsewhere, or lately, been so much accustomed to the encounter of good-will as to withstand the shock firmly, that I thus attempt to commemorate your good qualities, or rather the advantages which I have derived from their exertion. Even the recurrence of the date of this letter, the anniversary of the most unfortunate day of my past experience,* but which cannot poison my future while I retain the resource of your friendship and of my own faculties, will henceforth have a more agreeable recollection for both, inasmuch as it will remind us of this my attempt to thank you for an indefatigable regard, such as few men have experienced, and no one could experience without thinking better of his species and of himself.

It has been our fortune to traverse together, at various periods, the countries of chivalry, history, and fable—Spain, Greece, Asia Minor, and Italy; and what Athens and Constantinople were to us a few years ago, Venice and Rome have been more recently. The poem also, or the pilgrim, or both, have accompanied me from first to last; and perhaps it may be a pardonable vanity which induces me to reflect with complacency on a composition which in some degree connects me with the spot where it was produced, and the objects it would fain describe; and however unworthy it may be deemed of those magical and memorable abodes, however short it may fall of our distant conceptions and immediate impressions, yet as a mark of respect for what is venerable, and of feeling for what is glorious, it has been to me a source of pleasure in the production, and I part with it with a kind of regret, which I hardly suspected that events could have left me for imaginary objects.

With regard to the conduct of the last canto, there will be found less of the pilgrim than in any of the preceding, and that little slightly, if at all, separated from the author speaking in his own person. The fact is, that I had become weary of drawing a line which every one seemed determined not to perceive: like the Chinese in Goldsmith's "Citizen of the World," whom nobody would believe to be a Chinese, it was in vain that I asserted, and imagined that I had drawn, a distinction between the author and the pilgrim; and the very anxiety to preserve this difference, and disappointment at finding it unavailing, so far crushed my efforts in the composition, that I determined to abandon it altogether—and have done so. The opinions which have been, or may be, formed on that subject, are now a matter of indifference; the work is to depend on itself and not on the writer; and the author, who has no resources in his own mind beyond the reputation, transient or permanent, which is to arise from his literary efforts, deserves the fate of authors.

In the course of the following canto it was my intention, either in the text or in the notes, to have touched upon the present state of Italian literature, and perhaps of manners. But the text, within the limits I proposed, soon found hardly sufficient for the labyrinth of external objects, and the consequent reflections; and for the whole of the notes, excepting a few of the shortest, I am indebted to yourself, and these were necessarily limited to the elucidation of the text.

It is also a delicate, and no very grateful task, to dissert upon the literature and manners of a nation so dissimilar; and requires an attention and impartiality which would induce us—though perhaps no inattentive observers, nor ignorant of the language or customs of the people amongst whom we have recently abode—to distrust, or at least defer, our judgment, and more narrowly examine our information. The state of literary as well as political party appears to run, or to have run, so high, that for a stranger to steer impartially between them is next to impossible. It may be enough, then, at least for my purpose, to quote from their own beautiful language—"Mi pare che in un paese tutto poetico, che vanta la lingua la piu nobile ed insieme la piu dolce, tutte tutte le vie diverse si possono tentare, e che sinche la patria di Alfieri e di Monti non ha perduto l'antico valore, in tutte essa dovrebbe essere la prima." Italy has great names still: Canova, Monti, Ugo Foscolo, Pindemonte, Visconti, Morelli, Cicognara, Albrizzi, Mezzophanti, Mai, Mustoxidi, Aglietti, and Vacca, will secure to the present generation an honorable place in most of the departments of art, science, and belles lettres; and in some of the very highest. Europe—the World—has but one Canova.

It has been somewhere said by Alfieri, that "La pianta uomo nasce piu robusta in Italia che in qualunque altra terra—e che gli stessi atroci delitti che vi si commettono ne sono una prova." Without subscribing to the latter part of his proposition—a dangerous doctrine, the truth of which may be disputed on better grounds, namely, that the Italians are in no respect more ferocious than their neighbors—that man must be willfully blind, or ignorantly heedless, who is not struck with the extraordinary capacity of this people, or, if such a word be admissible, their capabilities, the facility of their acquisitions, the rapidity of their conceptions, the fire of their genius, their sense of beauty, and amidst all the disadvantages of repeated revolutions, the desolation of battles, and the despair of ages, their still unquenched "longing after immortality"—the immortality of independence. And when we ourselves, in riding round the walls of Rome, heard the simple lament of the laborers' chorus, "Roma! Roma! Roma! Roma non e piu come era prima," it was difficult not to contrast this melancholy dirge with the bacchanal roar of the songs of exultation still yelled from the London taverns, over the carnage of Mont St. Jean, and the betrayal of Genoa, of Italy, of France, and of the world, by men whose conduct you yourself have exposed in a work worthy of the better days of our history. For me,—

"Non movero mai corda
Ove la turba di sue ciance assorda."

What Italy has gained by the late transfer of nations, it were useless for Englishmen to inquire, till it becomes ascertained that England has acquired something more than a permanent army and a suspended Habeas Corpus; it is enough for them to look at home. For what they have done abroad, and especially in the south, "verily they will have their reward," and at no very distant period.

Wishing you, my dear Hobhouse, a safe and agreeable return to that country whose real welfare can be dearer to none than to yourself, I dedicate to you this poem in its completed state; and repeat once more how truly I am ever, your obliged and affectionate friend,

BYRON.

I.

I stood in Venice, on the Bridge of Sighs;
A palace and a prison on each hand:
I saw from out the wave her structures rise
As from the stroke of the enchanter's wand:
A thousand years their cloudy wings expand
Around me, and a dying glory smiles
O'er the far times when many a subject land
Look'd to the winged Lion's marble piles,
Where Venice sate in state, throned on her hundred isles!

* His marriage.

II.

She looks a sea Cybele, fresh from ocean,*
Rising with her tiara of proud towers
At airy distance, with majestic motion,
A ruler of the waters and their powers:
And such she was; her daughters had their dowers [East
From spoils of nations, and the exhaustless
Pour'd in her lap all gems in sparkling showers.
In purple was she robed, and of her feast
Monarchs partook, and deem'd their dignity increased.

III.

In Venice, Tasso's echoes are no more,
And silent rows the songless gondolier;
Her palaces are crumbling to the shore,
And music meets not always now the ear:
Those days are gone—but Beauty still is here. [die,
States fall, arts fade—but Nature doth not
Nor yet forget how Venice once was dear,
The pleasant place of all festivity,
The revel of the earth, the masque of Italy!

IV.

But unto us she hath a spell beyond
Her name in story, and her long array
Of mighty shadows, whose dim forms despond
Above the Dogeless city's vanish'd sway;
Ours is a trophy which will not decay
With the Rialto; Shylock and the Moor,
And Pierre, cannot be swept or worn away—
The keystones of the arch! though all were
For us repeopled were the solitary shore. [o'er,

V.

The beings of the mind are not of clay;
Essentially immortal, they created
And multiply in us a brighter ray
And more beloved existence: that which
Prohibits to dull life, in this our state [Fate
Of mortal bondage, by these spirits supplied,
First exiles, then replaces what we hate;
Watering the heart whose early flowers have died, [void.
And with a fresher growth replenishing the

VI.

Such is the refuge of our youth and age,
The first from Hope, the last from Vacancy;
And this worn feeling peoples many a page,
And, may be, that which grows beneath mine eye;
Yet there are things whose strong reality
Outshines our fairy-land; in shape and hues
More beautiful than our fantastic sky,
And the strange constellations which the Muse
O'er her wild universe is skilful to diffuse:

* Sabellicus, describing the appearance of Venice, has made use of the above image, which would not be poetical were it not true. "Quo fit ut qui superne urbem contempletur, turritam telluris imaginem medio Oceano figuratam se putet inspicere."

VII.

I saw or dream'd of such,—but let them go,—
They came like truth, and disappear'd like dreams;
And whatsoe'er they were—are now but so;
I could replace them if I would: still teems
My mind with many a form which aptly seems
Such as I sought for, and at moments found;
Let these too go—for waking Reason deems
Such overweening phantasies unsound,
And other voices speak, and other sights surround.

VIII.

I've taught me other tongues—and in strange eyes
Have made me not a stranger; to the mind
Which is itself, no changes bring surprise;
Nor is it harsh to make, nor hard to find
A country with—ay, or without mankind;
Yet was I born where men are proud to be,
Not without cause; and should I leave behind
The inviolate island of the sage and free,
And seek me out a home by a remoter sea,

IX.

Perhaps I loved it well: and should I lay
My ashes in a soil which is not mine,
My spirit shall resume it—if we may
Unbodied choose a sanctuary. I twine
My hopes of being remember'd in my line
With my land's language: if too fond and far
These aspirations in their scope incline,—
If my fame should be, as my fortunes are,
Of hasty growth and blight, and dull Oblivion bar

X.

My name from out the temple where the dead
Are honor'd by the nations—let it be—
And light the laurels on a loftier head!
And be the Spartan's epitaph on me—
"Sparta hath many a worthier son than he."*
Meantime I seek no sympathies, nor need;
The thorns which I have reap'd are of the tree
I planted,—they have torn me—and I bleed:
I should have known what fruit would spring from such a seed.

XI.

The spouseless Adriatic mourns her lord;
And, annual marriage now no more renew'd,
The Bucentaur lies rotting unrestored,
Neglected garment of her widowhood!
St. Mark yet sees his lion where he stood
Stand, but in mockery of his wither'd power,
Over the proud Place where an Emperor sued,
And monarchs gazed and envied in the hour
When Venice was a queen with an unequall'd dower.

* The answer of the mother of Brasidas, the Lacedæmonian general, to the strangers who praised the memory of her son.

XII.

The Suabian sued, and now the Austrian reigns— [knelt;
An Emperor tramples where an Emperor
Kingdoms are shrunk to provinces, and chains
Clank over sceptred cities; nations melt
From power's high pinnacle, when they have felt
The sunshine for a while, and downward go
Like lauwine loosen'd from the mountain's belt:
Oh for one hour of blind old Dandolo!
h' octogenarian chief, Byzantium's conquering foe.

XIII.

Before St. Mark still glow his steeds of brass,
Their gifted collars glittering in the sun;
But is not Doria's menace come to pass?
Are they not *bridled?*—Venice, lost and won, [done,
Her thirteen hundred years of freedom
Sinks, like a seaweed, into whence she rose!
Better be whelm'd beneath the waves, and shun, [foes,
Even in Destruction's depth, her foreign
rom whom submission wrings an infamous repose.

XIV.

In youth she was all glory,—a new Tyre,—
Her very byword sprung from victory,
The "Planter of the Lion,"* which through fire [sea;
And blood she bore o'er subject earth and
Though making many slaves, herself still free,
And Europe's bulwark 'gainst the Ottomite:
Witness Troy's rival, Candia! Vouch it, ye
Immortal waves that saw Lepanto's fight!
or ye are names no time nor tyranny can blight.

XV.

Statues of glass—all shiver'd—the long file
Of her dead Doges are declined to dust;
But where they dwelt, the vast and sumptuous pile
Bespeaks the pageant of their splendid trust;
Their sceptre broken, and their sword in rust,
Have yielded to the stranger: empty halls,
Thin streets, and foreign aspects, such as must
Too oft remind her who and what enthrals,
Have flung a desolate cloud o'er Venice' lovely walls.

XVI.

When Athens' armies fell at Syracuse,
And fetter'd thousands bore the yoke of war,
Redemption rose up in the Attic Muse,†
Her voice their only ransom from afar;
See! as they chant the tragic hymn, the car
Of the o'ermastered victor stops, the reins
Fall from his hands—his idle scimitar
Starts from its belt—he rends his captive's chains, [his strains.
And bids him thank the bard for freedom and

XVII.

Thus, Venice, if no stronger claim were thine,
Were all thy proud historic deeds forgot,
Thy choral memory of the Bard divine,
Thy Love of Tasso, should have cut the knot
Which ties thee to thy tyrants; and thy lot
Is shameful to the nations—most of all,
Albion, to thee: the Ocean Queen should not
Abandon Ocean's children; in the fall
Of Venice think of thine, despite thy watery wall.

XVIII.

I loved her from my boyhood—she to me
Was as a fairy city of the heart,
Rising like water-columns from the sea,
Of Joy the sojourn, and of wealth the mart;
And Otway, Radcliffe, Schiller, Shakspeare's art,*
Had stamp'd her image in me, and even so,
Although I found her thus, we did not part,
Perchance even dearer in her day of woe,
Than when she was a boast, a marvel, and a show.

XIX.

I can repeople with the past—and of
The present there is still for eye and thought,
And meditation chasten'd down, enough;
And more, it may be, than I hoped or sought; [wrought
And of the happiest moments, which were
Within the web of my existence, some
From thee, fair Venice! have their colors caught: [numb,
There are some feelings time cannot be-
Nor torture shake, or mine would now be cold and dumb.

XX.

But from their nature will the tannen grow†
Loftiest on loftiest and least shelter'd rocks,
Rooted in barrenness, where nought below
Of soil supports them 'gainst the Alpine shocks [and mocks
Of eddying storms; yet springs the trunk,
The howling tempest, till its height and frame [blocks
Are worthy of the mountains from whose
Of bleak, gray granite, into life it came,
And grew a giant tree;—the mind may grow the same.

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*That is, the Lion of St. Mark, the standard of the republic, which is the origin of the word Pantaloon—Giantaleone, Pantaleon, Pantaloon.

†The story is told in Plutarch's "Life of Nicias."

*"Venice Preserved"; "Mysteries of Udolpho"; "The Ghost-Seer, or Armenian"; "The Merchant of Venice"; "Othello."

†Tannen is the plural of tanne, a species of fir peculiar to the Alps, which only thrives in very rocky parts, where scarcely soil sufficient for its nourishment can be found. On these spots it grows to a greater height than any other mountain tree.

XXI.

Existence may be borne, and the deep root
Of life and sufferance make its firm abode
In bare and desolated bosoms: mute
The camel labors with the heaviest load,
And the wolf dies in silence,—not bestow'd
In vain should such examples be; if they,
Things of ignoble or of savage mood,
Endure and shrink not, we of nobler clay
May temper it to bear,—it is but for a day.

XXII.

All suffering doth destroy, or is destroy'd,
Even by the sufferer; and, in each event,
Ends:—Some with hope replenish'd and rebuoy'd,
Return to whence they came—with like intent,
And weave their web again; some, bow'd and bent,
Wax grey and ghastly, withering ere their time,
And perish with the reed on which they leant;
Some seek devotion, toil, war, good or crime,
According as their souls were form'd to sink or climb.

XXIII.

But ever and anon of griefs subdued
There comes a token like a scorpion's sting,
Scarce seen, but with fresh bitterness imbued;
And slight withal may be the things which bring
Back on the heart the weight which it would fling
Aside forever: it may be a sound—
A tone of music—summer's eve—or spring—
A flower—the wind—the ocean—which shall wound,
Striking the electric chain wherewith we are darkly bound:

XXIV.

And how and why we know not, nor can trace
Home to its cloud this lightning of the mind,
But feel the shock renew'd, nor can efface
The blight and blackening which it leaves behind,
Which out of things familiar, undesign'd,
When least we deem of such, call up to view
The spectres whom no exorcism can bind,—
The cold—the changed—perchance the dead—anew,
The mourn'd, the loved, the lost—too many!—yet how few!

XXV.

But my soul wanders; I demand it back
To meditate amongst decay, and stand
A ruin amidst ruins; there to track
Fallen states and buried greatness, o'er a land
Which *was* the mightiest in its old command,
And *is* the loveliest, and must ever be
The master-mould of Nature's heavenly hand,
Wherein were cast the heroic and the free,
The beautiful, the brave—the lords of earth and sea.

XXVI.

The commonwealth of kings, the men of Rome!
And ever since, and now, fair Italy!
Thou art the garden of the world, the home
Of all Art yields, and Nature can decree;
Even in thy desert, what is like to thee?
The very weeds are beautiful, thy waste
More rich than other climes' fertility;
Thy wreck a glory, and thy ruin graced
With an immaculate charm which cannot be defaced.

XXVII.

The moon is up, and yet it is not night—
Sunset divides the sky with her—a sea
Of glory streams along the Alpine height
Of blue Friuli's mountains; Heaven is free
From clouds, but of all colors seems to be
Melted to one vast Iris of the West,
Where the Day joins the past Eternity;
While, on the other hand, meek Dian's crest
Floats through the azure air—an island of the blest!*

XXVIII.

A single star is at her side, and reigns
With her o'er half the lovely heaven; but still
Yon sunny sea heaves brightly, and remains
Roll'd o'er the peak of the far Rhætian hill,
As Day and Night contending were, until
Nature reclaim'd her order:—gently flows
The deep-dyed Brenta, where their hues instil
The odorous purple of a new-born rose,
Which streams upon her stream, and glass'd within it glows.

XXIX.

Fill'd with the face of heaven, which, from afar,
Comes down upon the waters; all its hues,
From the rich sunset to the rising star,
Their magical variety diffuse:
And now they change; a paler shadow strews
Its mantle o'er the mountains; parting day
Dies like the dolphin, whom each pang imbues
With a new color as it gasps away,
The last still loveliest, till—'tis gone—and all is grey.

XXX.

There is a tomb in Arqua;—rear'd in air,
Pillar'd in their sarcophagus, repose
The bones of Laura's lover; here repair
Many familiar with his well-sung woes,
The pilgrims of his genius. He arose
To raise a language, and his land reclaim
From the dull yoke of her barbaric foes:
Watering the tree which bears his lady's name
With his melodious tears, he gave himself to fame.

* The above description may seem fantastical or exaggerated to those who have never seen an Oriental or an Italian sky, yet it is but a literal and hardly sufficient delineation of an August evening (the eighteenth), as contemplated in one of many rides along the banks of the Brenta, near La Mira.

XXXI.

They keep his dust in Arqua, where he died;
The mountain-village where his latter days
Went down the vale of years; and 'tis their pride—
An honest pride—and let it be their praise,
To offer to the passing stranger's gaze,
His mansion and his sepulchre; both plain
And venerably simple, such as raise
A feeling more accordant with his strain,
Than if a pyramid form'd his monumental fane.

XXXII.

And the soft quiet hamlet where he dwelt
Is one of that complexion which seems made
For those who their mortality have felt,
And sought a refuge from their hopes decay'd
In the deep umbrage of a green hill's shade,
Which shows a distant prospect far away
Of busy cities, now in vain display'd,
For they can lure no further; and the ray
Of a bright sun can make sufficient holiday,

XXXIII.

Developing the mountains, leaves, and flowers, [by,
And shining in the brawling brook, where-
Clear as its current, glide the sauntering hours [eye
With a calm languor, which, though to the
Idlesse it seem, hath its morality.
If from society we learn to live,
'Tis solitude should teach us how to die;
It hath no flatterers; vanity can give
No hollow aid; alone—man with his God must strive:

XXXIV.

Or, it may be, with demons, who impair*
The strength of better thoughts, and seek their prey
In melancholy bosoms, such as were
Of moody texture from their earliest day,
And loved to dwell in darkness and dismay,
Deeming themselves predestined to a doom
Which is not of the pangs that pass away;
Making the sun like blood, the earth a tomb,
The tomb a hell, and hell itself a murkier gloom.

XXXV.

Ferrara! in thy wide and grass-grown streets,
Whose symmetry was not for solitude,
There seems as 'twere a curse upon the seats [brood
Of former sovereigns, and the antique
Of Este, which for many an age made good
Its strength within thy walls, and was of yore
Patron or tyrant, as the changing mood
Of petty power impell'd, of those who wore
The wreath which Dante's brow alone had worn before.

XXXVI.

And Tasso is their glory and their shame.
Hark to his strain! and then survey his cell!
And see how dearly earn'd Torquato's fame,
And where Alfonso bade his poet dwell.
The miserable despot could not quell [blend
The insulted mind he sought to quench, and
With the surrounding maniacs, in the hell
Where he had plunged it. Glory without end [attend
Scatter'd the clouds away—and on that name

XXXVII.

The tears and praises of all time, while thine
Would rot in its oblivion—in the sink [line
Of worthless dust, which from thy boasted
Is shaken into nothing; but the link
Thou formest in his fortunes bids us think
Of thy poor malice, naming thee with scorn—
Alfonso! how thy ducal pageants shrink
From thee! if in another station born,
Scarce fit to be the slave of him thou madest to mourn:

XXXVIII.

Thou! form'd to eat, and be despised, and die, [thou
Even as the beasts that perish, save that
Hadst a more splendid trough, and wider sty;
He! with a glory round his furrow'd brow,
Which emanated then, and dazzles now
In face of all his foes, the Cruscan quire,
And Boileau, whose rash envy could allow
No strain which shamed his country's creaking lyre, [wire!
That whetstone of the teeth—monotony in

XXXIX.

Peace to Torquato's injured shade! 'twas his
In life and death to be the mark where Wrong [miss.
Aim'd with her poison'd arrows—but to
Oh, victor unsurpass'd in modern song!
Each year brings forth its millions; but how long
The tide of generations shall roll on,
And not the whole combined and countless throng [one
Compose a mind like thine? Though all in
Condensed their scatter'd rays, they would not form a sun.

XL.

Great as thou art, yet parallel'd by those,
Thy countrymen, before thee born to shine,
The Bards of Hell and Chivalry: first rose
The Tuscan father's comedy divine;
Then, not unequal to the Florentine,
The southern Scott, the minstrel who call'd
A new creation with his magic line, [forth
And, like the Ariosto of the North, [worth.
Sang ladye-love and war, romance and knightly

XLI.

The lightning rent from Ariosto's bust
The iron crown of laurel's mimick'd leaves;

* The struggle is to the full as likely to be with demons as with our better thoughts. Satan chose the wilderness for the temptation of our Saviour. And our unsullied John Locke preferred the presence of a child to complete solitude.

Nor was the ominous element unjust,
For the true laurel-wreath which Glory weaves
Is of the tree no bolt of thunder cleaves,
And the false semblance but disgraced his brow;
Yet still, if fondly Superstition grieves,
Know that the lightning sanctifies below
Whate'er it strikes;—yon head is doubly sacred now.

XLII.

Italia! O Italia! thou who hast
The fatal gift of beauty, which became
A funeral dower of present woes and past,
On thy sweet brow is sorrow plough'd by shame,
And annals graved in characters of flame.
O God! that thou wert in thy nakedness
Less lovely or more powerful, and couldst claim [press
Thy right, and awe the robbers back, who
To shed thy blood, and drink the tears of thy distress;

XLIII.

Then might'st thou more appal; or, less desired,
Be homely and be peaceful, undeplored
For thy destructive charms; then, still untired, [pour'd
Would not be seen the armèd torrents
Down the deep Alps; nor would the hostile horde
Of many-nation'd spoilers from the Po
Quaff blood and water; nor the stranger's sword
Be thy sad weapons of defence, and so, [foe.*
Victor or vanquish'd, thou the slave of friend or

XLIV.

Wandering in youth, I traced the path of him,† [mind,
The Roman friend of Rome's least mortal
The friend of Tully: as my bark did skim
The bright blue waters with a fanning wind,
Came Megara before me, and behind
Ægina lay, Piræus on the right,
And Corinth on the left; I lay reclined
Along the prow, and saw all these unite
In ruin, even as he had seen the desolate sight;

XLV.

For time hath not rebuilt them, but uprear'd
Barbaric dwellings on their shatter'd site,
Which only make more mourn'd and more endear'd
The few last rays of their far-scatter'd light,
And the crush'd relics of their vanish'd might.
The Roman saw these tombs in his own age,
These sepulchres of cities, which excite
Sad wonder, and his yet surviving page
The moral lesson bears, drawn from such pilgrimage.

XLVI.

That page is now before me, and on mine
His country's ruin added to the mass [cline,
Of perish'd states he mourn'd in their de-
And I in desolation: all that *was*
Of then destruction *is;* and now, alas!
Rome—Rome imperial, bows her to the storm, [pass
In the same dust and blackness, and we
The skeleton of her Titanic form,* [warm.
Wrecks of another world, whose ashes still are

XLVII.

Yet, Italy! through every other land
Thy wrongs should wring, and shall, from side to side;
Mother of Arts! as once of Arms; thy hand
Was then our guardian, and is still our guide;
Parent of our Religion! whom the wide
Nations have knelt to for the keys of heaven!
Europe, repentant of her parricide, [driven,
Shall yet redeem thee, and, all backward
Roll the barbarian tide, and sue to be forgiven.

XLVIII.

But Arno wins us to the fair white walls,
Where the Etrurian Athens claims and keeps
A softer feeling for her fairy halls.
Girt by her theatre of hills, she reaps [leaps
Her corn, and wine, and oil, and Plenty
To laughing life, with her redundant horn.
Along the banks where smiling Arno sweeps,
Was modern Luxury of Commerce born,
And buried Learning rose, redeem'd to a new morn.

XLIX.

There, too, the Goddess loves in stone, and
The air around with beauty; we inhale [fills
The ambrosial aspect, which, beheld, instils
Part of its immortality; the veil
Of heaven is half undrawn; within the pale
We stand, and in that form and face behold
What Mind can make, when Nature's self
And to the fond idolaters of old [would fail;
Envy the innate flash which such a soul could mould:

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* The two stanzas XLII. and XLIII. are, with the exception of a line or two, a translation of the famous sonnet of Filicaja:—"Italia, Italia, O tu cui feo la sorte!"

† The celebrated letter of Servius Sulpicius to Cicero, on the death of his daughter, describes as it then was, and now is, a path which I often traced in Greece, both by sea and land, in different journeys and voyages. "On my return from Asia, as I was sailing from Ægina towards Megara, I began to contemplate the prospect of the countries around me: Ægina was behind, Megara before me; Piræus on the right, Corinth on the left; all which towns, once famous and flourishing, now lie overturned and buried in their ruins. Upon this sight, I could not but think presently within myself, Alas! how do we poor mortals fret and vex ourselves if any of our friends happen to die or be killed, whose life is yet so short, when the carcasses of so many noble cities lie here exposed before me in one view."—See Middleton's Cicero, vol. ii. p. 371.

* It is Poggio, who, looking from the Capitoline hill upon ruined Rome, breaks forth into the exclamation, "Ut nunc omni decore nudata, prostrata jacet, instar gigantei cadaveris corrupti atque undique exesi."

L.

We gaze and turn away, and know not where,
Dazzled and drunk with beauty, till the heart
Reels with its fulness; there—forever there—
Chain'd to the chariot of triumphal Art,
We stand as captives, and would not depart.
Away!—there need no words, nor terms precise,
The paltry jargon of the marble mart,
Where Pedantry gulls Folly—we have eyes;
Blood,—pulse,—and breast, confirm the Dardan Shepherd's prize.

LI.

Appear'dst thou not to Paris in this guise?
Or to more deeply blest Anchises? or,
In all thy perfect goddess-ship, when lies
Before thee thy own vanquish'd Lord of War?
And gazing in thy face as toward a star,
Laid on thy lap, his eyes to thee upturn,
Feeding on thy sweet cheek!* while thy lips are
With lava kisses melting while they burn,
Shower'd on his eyelids, brow, and mouth, as from an urn!

LII.

Glowing, and circumfused in speechless love,
Their full divinity inadequate
That feeling to express, or to improve,
The gods become as mortals, and man's fate
Has moments like their brightest! but the weight
Of earth recoils upon us;—let it go! [below.
We can recall such visions, and create
From what has been, or might be, things which grow,
Into thy statue's form, and look like gods

LIII.

I leave to learned fingers, and wise hands,
The artist and his ape, to teach and tell
How well his connoisseurship understands
The graceful bend, and the voluptuous swell:
Let these describe the undescribable:
I would not their vile breath should crisp the stream
Wherein that image shall forever dwell;
The unruffled mirror of the loveliest dream
That ever left the sky on the deep soul to beam.

LIV.

In Santa Croce's holy precincts lie
Ashes which make it holier, dust which is
Even in itself an immortality, [and this
Though there were nothing save the past,
The particle of those sublimities
Which have relapsed to chaos:—here repose
Angelo's, Alfieri's bones, and his,
The starry Galileo, with his woes; [rose.
Here Machiavelli's earth return'd to whence it

LV.

These are four minds, which, like the elements,
Might furnish forth creation:—Italy!
Time, which hath wrong'd thee with ten thousand rents
Of thine imperial garment, shall deny
And hath denied, to every other sky,
Spirits which soar from ruin:—thy decay
Is still impregnate with divinity,
Which gilds it with revivifying ray;
Such as the great of yore, Canova is to day.

LVI.

But where repose the all Etruscan three—
Dante, and Petrarch, and, scarce less than
The Bard of Prose, creative spirit! he [they,
Of the Hundred Tales of love—where did they lay [clay
Their bones, distinguish'd from our common
In death as life? Are they resolved to dust,
And have their country's marbles nought to say? [bust?
Could not her quarries furnish forth one
Did they not to her breast their filial earth entrust?

LVII.

Ungrateful Florence! Dante sleeps afar,
Like Scipio, buried by the upbraiding shore;
Thy factions, in their worse than civil war,
Proscribed the bard whose name forevermore [adore
Their children's children would in vain
With the remorse of ages; and the crown
Which Petrarch's laureate brow supremely wore,
Upon a far and foreign soil had grown,
His life, his fame, his grave, though rifled—not thine own.

LVIII.

Boccaccio to his parent earth bequeath'd
His dust,—and lies it not her Great among,
With many a sweet and solemn requiem breathed [tongue?
O'er him who form'd the Tuscan's siren
That music in itself, whose sounds are song, [tomb
The poetry of speech? No;—even his
Uptorn, must bear the hyæna bigot's wrong,
No more amidst the meaner dead find room,
Nor claim a passing sigh, because it told for *whom!*

LIX.

And Santa Croce wants their mighty dust:
Yet for this want more noted, as of yore
The Cæsar's pageant, shorn of Brutus' bust,
Did but of Rome's best son remind her more:
Happier Ravenna! on thy hoary shore,
Fortress of falling empire! honor'd sleeps
The immortal exile;—Arqua, too, her store
Of tuneful relics proudly claims and keeps,
While Florence vainly begs her banish'd dead, and weeps.

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* Ὀφθαλμοὺς ἔστιᾶν.

"Atque oculos pascat uterque suos."—Ovid Amor. lib. ii.

LX.

What is her pyramid of precious stones?
Of porphyry, jasper, agate, and all hues
Of gem and marble, to encrust the bones
Of merchant-dukes? the momentary dews
Which, sparkling to the twilight stars, infuse [dead,
Freshness in the green turf that wraps the
Whose names are mausoleums of the Muse,
Are gently prest with far more reverent tread [princely head.
Than ever paced the slab which paves the

LXI.

There be more things to greet the heart and eyes [shrine,
In Arno's dome of Art's most princely
Where Sculpture with her rainbow sister vies; [mine;
There be more marvels yet—but not for
For I have been accustom'd to entwine
My thoughts with Nature rather in the fields, [vine
Than Art in galleries; though a work dicalls for my spirit's homage, yet it yields
Less than it feels, because the weapon which it wields

LXII.

Is of another temper, and I roam
By Thrasimene's lake, in the defiles
Fatal to Roman rashness, more at home;
For there the Carthaginian's warlike wiles
Come back before me, as his skill beguiles
The host between the mountains and the shore,
Where Courage falls in her despairing files,
And torrents, swoll'n to rivers with their gore, [scatter'd o'er.
Reek through the sultry plain, with legions

LXIII.

Like to a forest fell'd by mountain winds;
And such the storm of battle on this day,
And such the frenzy, whose convulsion blinds
To all save carnage, that, beneath the fray,
An earthquake reel'd unheededly away!
None felt stern Nature rocking at his feet,
And yawning forth a grave for those who lay
Upon their bucklers for a winding-sheet;
Such is the absorbing hate when warring nations meet!

LXIV.

The Earth to them was as a rolling bark
Which bore them to Eternity; they saw
The Ocean round, but had no time to mark
The motions of their vessel: Nature's law,
In them suspended, reck'd not of the awe
Which reigns when mountains tremble, and the birds [draw
Plunge in the clouds for refuge, and with-
From their down-toppling nests; and bellowing herds [dread hath no words.
Stumble o'er heaving plains, and man's

LXV.

Far other scene is Thrasimene now;
Her lake a sheet of silver, and her plain
Rent by no ravage save the gentle plough;
Her aged trees rise thick as once the slain
Lay where their roots are; but a brook hath ta'en—
A little rill of scanty stream and bed—
A name of blood from that day's sanguine rain;
And Sanguinetto tells ye where the dead
Made the earth wet, and turn'd the unwilling waters red.

LXVI.

But thou, Clitumnus! in thy sweetest wave
Of the most living crystal that was e'er
The haunt of river nymph, to gaze and lave
Her limbs where nothing hid them, thou dost rear [steer
Thy grassy banks whereon the milk-white
Grazes; the purest god of gentle waters!
And most serene of aspect, and most clear:
Surely that stream was unprofaned by slaughters— [daughters!
A mirror and a bath for Beauty's youngest

LXVII.

And on thy happy shore a Temple still,
Of small and delicate proportion, keeps,
Upon a mild declivity of hill,
Its memory of thee; beneath it sweeps
Thy current's calmness; oft from out it leaps
The finny darter with the glittering scales,
Who dwells and revels in thy glassy deeps;
While, chance, some scatter'd water-lily sails [bubbling tales.
Down where the shallower wave still tells its

LXVIII.

Pass not unblest the Genius of the place!
If through the air a zephyr more serene
Win to the brow, 'tis his; and if ye trace
Along this margin a more eloquent green,
If on the heart the freshness of the scene
Sprinkle its coolness, and from the dry dust
Of weary life a moment lave it clean
With Nature's baptism,—'tis to him ye must
Pay orisons for this suspension of disgust.

LXIX.

The roar of waters!—from the headlong height
Velino cleaves the wave-worn precipice;
The fall of waters! rapid as the light
The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss;
The hell of waters! where they howl and hiss, [sweat
And boil in endless torture; while the
Of their great agony, wrung out from this
Their Phlegethon, curls round the rocks of jet [set,
That gird the gulf around, in pitiless horror

LXX.

And mounts in spray the skies, and thence again [round,
Returns in an unceasing shower, which

With its unemptied cloud of gentle rain,
Is an eternal April to the ground,
Making it all one emerald; how profound
The gulf! and how the giant element
From rock to rock leaps with delirious bound,
Crushing the cliffs, which, downward worn and rent
With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms a [fearful vent

LXXI.

To the broad column, which rolls on, and shows
More like the fountain of an infant sea
Torn from the womb of mountains by the throes
Of a new world, than only thus to be [Parent of rivers, which flow gushingly,
With many windings through the vale;—
Look back!
Lo! where it comes like an eternity,
As if to sweep down all things in its track,
Charming the eye with dread,*—a matchless cataract,

LXXII.

Horribly beautiful! but on the verge,
From side to side, beneath the glittering morn,
An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,†
Like Hope upon a deathbed, and, unworn
Its steady dyes, while all around is torn
By the distracted waters, bears serene
Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn:
Resembling, mid the torture of the scene,
Love watching Madness with unalterable mien.

LXXIII.

Once more upon the woody Apennine,
The infant Alps, which—had I not before
Gazed on their mightier parents, where the pine
Sits on more shaggy summits, and where [roar
The thundering lauwine,‡—might be worshipp'd more;

But I have seen the soaring Jungfrau rear
Her never-trodden snow, and seen the hoar
Glaciers of bleak Mont Blanc both far and near,
And in Chimari heard the thunder-hills of [fear,

LXXIV.

The Acroceraunian mountains of old name;
And on Parnassus seen the eagles fly
Like spirits of the spot, as 'twere for fame,
For still they soar'd unutterably high:
I've look'd on Ida with a Trojan's eye;
Athos, Olympus, Ætna, Atlas, made
These hills seem things of lesser dignity,
All, save the lone Soracte's height display'd,
Not *now* in snow, which asks the lyric Roman's aid

LXXV.

For our remembrance, and from out the plain
Heaves like a long-swept wave about to break,
And on the curl hangs pausing: not in vain
May he who will his recollections rake,
And quote in classic raptures, and awake
The hills with Latin echoes; I abhorr'd
Too much to conquer for the poet's sake,
The drill'd dull lesson, forced down word by word* [record
In my repugnant youth, with pleasure to

LXXVI.

Aught that recalls the daily drug which turn'd
My sickening memory; and, though Time [hath taught
My mind to meditate what then it learn'd,
Yet such the fix'd inveteracy wrought
By the impatience of my early thought,
That, with the freshness wearing out before
My mind could relish what it might have sought,

* I saw the Cascata del Marmore of Terni twice, at different periods—once from the summit of the precipice, and again from the valley below. The lower view is far to be preferred, if the traveller has time for one only; but in any point of view, either from above or below, it is worth all the cascades and torrents of Switzerland put together: the Staubach, Reichenbach, Pisse Vache, fall of Arpenaz, etc., are rills in comparative appearance. Of the fall of Schaffhausen I cannot speak, not yet having seen it.

† Of the time, place and qualities of this kind of iris, the reader will see a short account in a note to "Manfred." The fall looks so much like "the hell of waters," that Addison thought the descent alluded to by the gulf in which Alecto plunged into the infernal regions. It is singular enough, that two of the finest cascades in Europe should be artificial—this of the Velino, and the one at Tivoli. The traveller is strongly recommended to trace the Velino, at least as high as the little lake called "Pie' di Lup." The Reatine territory was the Italian Tempe (Cicer. Epist. ad Attic. xv. lib. iv.), and the ancient naturalists (Plin. Hist. Nat. lib. ii. cap. lxii.), amongst other beautiful varieties, remarked the daily rainbows of the lake Velinus. A scholar of great name has devoted a treatise to this district alone. See Ald. Manut. "De Reatina Urbe Agroque," ap. Sallengre, Thesaur. tom. i. p. 773.

‡ In the greater part of Switzerland, the avalanches are known by the name of lauwine.

* These stanzas may probably remind the reader of Ensign Northerton's remarks, "D—n Homo," etc.; but the reasons for our dislike are not exactly the same. I wish to express, that we become tired of the task before we can comprehend the beauty; that we learn by rote before we can get by heart; that the freshness is worn away, and the future pleasure and advantage deadened and destroyed, by the didactic anticipation, at an age when we can neither feel nor understand the power of compositions which it requires an acquaintance with life, as well as Latin and Greek, to relish, or to reason upon. For the same reason, we can never be aware of the fulness of some of the finest passages of Shakspeare ("To be, or not to be," for instance), from the habit of having them hammered into us at eight years old, as an exercise, not of mind, but of memory: so that when we are old enough to enjoy them, the taste is gone, and the appetite palled. In some parts of the continent, young persons are taught from more common authors, and do not read the best classics till their maturity. I certainly do not speak on this point from any pique or aversion towards the place of my education. I was not a slow, though an idle boy; and I believe no one could, or can be, more attached to Harrow than I have always been, and with reason:—a part of the time passed there was the happiest of my life; and my preceptor, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Drury, was the best and worthiest friend I ever possessed, whose warnings I have remembered but too well, though too late, when I have erred,—and whose counsels I have but followed when I have done well or wisely. If ever this imperfect record of my feelings towards him should reach his eyes, let it remind him of one who never thinks of him but with gratitude and veneration—of one who would more gladly boast of having been his pupil, if, by more closely following his injunctions, he could reflect any honor upon his instructor.

If free to choose, I cannot now restore
Its health; but what it then detested, still
abhor.

LXXVII.

Then farewell, Horace; whom I hated so,
Not for thy faults, but mine; it is a curse
To understand, not feel thy lyric flow,
To comprehend, but never love thy verse,
Although no deeper Moralist rehearse
Our little life, nor Bard prescribe his art,
Nor livelier Satirist the conscience pierce,
Awakening without wounding the touch'd
heart, [part.
Yet fare thee well—upon Soracte's ridge we

LXXVIII.

O Rome! my country! city of the soul!
The orphans of the heart must turn to thee,
Lone mother of dead empires! and control
In their shut breasts their petty misery.
What are our woes and sufferance? Come
and see [way
The cypress, hear the owl, and plod your
O'er steps of broken thrones and temples,
Whose agonies are evils of a day— [Ye!
A world is at our feet as fragile as our clay.

LXXIX.

The Niobe of nations! there she stands,
Childless and crownless in her voiceless
woe;
An empty urn within her wither'd hands,
Whose holy dust was scatter'd long ago;
The Scipio's tomb contains no ashes now;
The very sepulchres lie tenantless
Of their heroic dwellers: dost thou flow,
Old Tiber! through a marbled wilderness?
Rise, with thy yellow waves, and mantle her
distress.

LXXX.

The Goth, the Christian, Time, War, Flood
and Fire
Have dealt upon the seven-hill'd city's pride:
She saw her glories star by star expire,
And up the steep barbarian monarchs ride,
Where the car climb'd the Capitol; far and
wide [site:—
Temple and tower went down, nor left a
Chaos of ruins! who shall trace the void,
O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar light,
And say, "Here was, or is," where all is doubly
night?

LXXXI.

The double night of ages, and of her,
Night's daughter, Ignorance, hath wrapt,
and wrap
All round us; we but feel our way to err:
The ocean hath its chart, the stars their map,
And Knowledge spreads them on her ample
lap;
But Rome is as the desert, where we steer
Stumbling o'er recollections: now we clap
Our hands, and cry "Eureka!" it is clear—
When but some false mirage of ruin rises near.

LXXXII.

Alas, the lofty city! and alas,
The trebly hundred triumphs!* and the day
When Brutus made the dagger's edge sur-
pass [away
The conqueror's sword in bearing fame
Alas for Tully's voice, and Virgil's lay, [be
And Livy's pictured page! But these shall
Her resurrection; all beside—decay.
Alas, for Earth, for never shall we see
That brightness in her eye she bore when
Rome was free!

LXXXIII.

O thou, whose chariot roll'd on Fortune's
wheel,
Triumphant Sylla! Thou, who didst subdue
Thy country's foes ere thou wouldst pause
to feel [due
The wrath of thy own wrongs, or reap the
Of hoarded vengeance till thine eagles flew
O'er prostrate Asia;—thou, who with thy
Annihilated senates—Roman, too, [frown
With all thy vices, for thou didst lay down
With an atoning smile a more than earthly
crown—

LXXXIV.

The dictatorial wreath,—couldst thou divine
To what would one day dwindle that which
made
Thee more than mortal? and that so supine
By aught than Romans Rome should thus
be laid?
She who was named Eternal, and array'd
Her warriors but to conquer—she who veil'd
Earth with her haughty shadow, and dis-
play'd,
Until the o'er-canopied horizon fail'd,
Her rushing wings—Oh! she who was Al-
mighty hail'd!

LXXXV.

Sylla was first of victors; but our own,
The sagest of usurpers, Cromwell!—he
Too swept off senates while he hew'd the
throne
Down to a block—immortal rebel! See
What crimes it cost to be a moment free
And famous through all ages! But beneath
His fate the moral lurks of destiny;
His day of double victory and death
Beheld him win two realms, and, happier,
yield his breath.†

LXXXVI.

The third of the same moon whose former
course [day
Had all but crown'd him, on the self-same
Deposed him gently from his throne of force,

* Orosius gives 320 for the number of triumphs. He is followed by Panvinius, and Panvinius by Mr. Gibbon and the modern writers.

†On the 3d of September Cromwell gained the victory of Dunbar; a year afterwards he obtained "his crowning mercy" of Worcester; and a few years after, on the same day, which he had ever esteemed the most fortunate for him, died.

And laid him with the earth's preceding clay. [sway,
And show'd not Fortune thus how fame and
And all we deem delightful, and consume
Our souls to compass through each arduous way,
Are in her eyes less happy than the tomb?
Were they but so in man's, how different were his doom!

LXXXVII.

And thou, dread statue! yet existent in
The austerest form of naked majesty,
Thou who beheldest, 'mid the assassins' din,
At thy bathed base the bloody Cæsar lie,
Folding his robe in dying dignity,
An offering to thine altar from the queen
Of gods and men, great Nemesis! did he die,
And thou, too, perish, Pompey? have ye been
Victors of countless kings, or puppets of a scene?

LXXXVIII.

And thou, the thunder-stricken nurse of Rome!
She-wolf! whose brazen-imaged dugs impart
The milk of conquest yet within the dome
Where, as a monument of antique art, [heart,
Thou standest:—Mother of the mighty
Which the great founder suck'd from thy wild teat,
Scorch'd by the Roman Jove's ethereal dart,
And thy limbs black'd with lightning—dost thou yet [charge forget?
Guard thine immortal cubs, nor thy fond

LXXXIX.

Thou dost;—but all thy foster-babes are dead—
The men of iron; and the world hath rear'd
Cities from out their sepulchres: men bled
In imitation of the things they fear'd,
And fought and conquer'd, and the same course steer'd,
At apish distance; but as yet none have,
Nor could, the same supremacy have near'd,
Save one vain man, who is not in the grave,
But, vanquish'd by himself, to his own slaves a slave,

XC.

The fool of false dominion—and a kind
Of bastard Cæsar, following him of old
With steps unequal; for the Roman's mind
Was modell'd in a less terrestrial mould,
With passions fiercer, yet a judgment cold,
And an immortal instinct which redeem'd
The frailties of a heart so soft, yet bold,
Alcides with a distaff now he seem'd
At Cleopatra's feet,—and now himself he beam'd,

XCI.

And came,—and saw,—and conquer'd! But the man [flee,
Who would have tamed his eagles down to
Like a train'd falcon, in the Gallic van,
Which he, in sooth, long led to victory,
With a deaf heart, which never seem'd to be
A listener to itself, was strangely framed;
With but one weakest weakness—vanity:
Coquettish in ambition,—still he aim'd—
At what? Can he avouch,—or answer what he claim'd?

XCII.

And would be all or nothing—nor could wait
For the sure grave to level him; few years
Had fix'd him with the Cæsars in his fate,
On whom we tread: For *this* the conqueror rears
The arch of triumph! and for this the tears
And blood of earth flow on as they have
An universal deluge, which appears [flow'd,
Without an ark for wretched man's abode,
And ebbs but to reflow!—Renew thy rainbow, God!

XCIII.

What from this barren being do we reap?
Our senses narrow, and our reason frail,*
Life short, and truth a gem which loves the deep, [scale;
And all things weigh'd in custom's falsest
Opinion an omnipotence—whose veil
Mantles the earth with darkness, until right
And wrong are accidents, and men grow pale
Lest their own judgments should become too bright, [have too much light.
And their free thoughts be crimes, and earth

XCIV.

And thus they plod in sluggish misery,
Rotting from sire to son, and age to age,
Proud of their trampled nature, and so die,
Bequeathing their hereditary rage
To the new race of inborn slaves, who wage
War for their chains, and rather than be free,
Bleed gladiator-like, and still engage
Within the same arena where they see
Their fellows fall before, like leaves of the same tree.

XCV.

I speak not of men's creeds, they rest between
Man and his Maker—but of things allow'd,
Averr'd, and known,—and daily, hourly seen—
The yoke that is upon us doubly bow'd,
And the intent of tyranny avow'd,
The edict of Earth's rulers, who are grown
The apes of him who humbled once the proud, [throne;
And shook them from their slumbers on the
Too glorious, were this all his mighty arm had done.

* "Omnes pene veteres; qui nihil cognosci, nihil percepi, nihil sciri posse dixerunt; angustos sensus; imbecillos animos, brevia curricula vitæ; in profundo veritatem demersam; opinionibus et institutis omnia teneri; nihil veritati relinqui; deinceps omnia tenebris circumfusa esse dixerunt."—Academ. I. 13. The eighteen hundred years which have elapsed since Cicero wrote this have not removed any of the imperfections of humanity: and the complaints of the ancient philosophers may, without injustice or affectation, be transcribed in a poem written yesterday.

XCVI.

Can tyrants but by tyrants conquer'd be,
And Freedom find no champion and no child
Such as Columbia saw arise when she
Sprung forth a Pallas, arm'd and undefiled?
Or must such minds be nourish'd in the wild,
Deep in the unpruned forest, 'midst the roar
Of cataracts, where nursing nature smiled
On infant Washington? Has Earth no more
Such seeds within her breast, or Europe no such shore?

XCVII.

But France got drunk with blood to vomit
And fatal have her Saturnalia been [crime,
To Freedom's cause, in every age and clime;
Because the deadly days which we have seen,
And vile Ambition, that built up between
Man and his hopes an adamantine wall,
And the base pageant last upon the scene,
Are grown the pretext for the eternal thrall
Which nips life's tree, and dooms man's worst —his second fall.

XCVIII.

Yet, Freedom! yet thy banner, torn, but flying, [wind;
Streams like the thunder-storm *against* the
Thy trumpet-voice, though broken now and dying,
The loudest still the tempest leaves behind;
Thy tree hath lost its blossoms, and the rind,
Chopp'd by the axe, looks rough and little worth,
But the sap lasts,—and still the seed we find
Sown deep, even in the bosom of the North;
So shall a better spring less bitter fruit bring forth.

XCIX.

There is a stern round tower of other days,*
Firm as a fortress, with its fence of stone,
Such as an army's baffled strength delays,
Standing with half its battlements alone,
And with two thousand years of ivy grown,
The garland of eternity, where wave
The green leaves over all by time o'erthrown;
What was this tower of strength? within its cave [man's grave.
What treasure lay so lock'd, so hid?—A wo-

C.

But who was she, the lady of the dead, [fair?
Tomb'd in a palace? Was she chaste and
Worthy a king's—or more—a Roman's bed?
What race of chiefs and heroes did she bear?
What daughter of her beauties was the heir?
How lived—how loved—how died she? Was she not
So honor'd—and conspicuously there,
Where meaner relics must not dare to rot,
Placed to commemorate a more than mortal lot?

* Alluding to the tomb of Cecilia Metella, called Capo di Bove.

CI.

Was she as those who love their lords, or they [been
Who love the lords of others? such have
Even in the olden time, Rome's annals say.
Was she a matron of Cornelia's mien,
Or the light air of Egypt's graceful queen,
Profuse of joy—or 'gainst it did she war,
Inveterate in virtue? Did she lean
To the soft side of the heart, or wisely bar
Love from amongst her griefs?—for such the affections are.

CII.

Perchance she died in youth: it may be, bow'd [tomb
With woes far heavier than the ponderous
That weigh'd upon her gentle dust, a cloud
Might gather o'er her beauty, and a gloom
In her dark eyes, prophetic of the doom
Heaven gives his favorites—early death;* yet shed
A sunset charm around her, and illume
With hectic light, the Hesperus of the dead,
Of her consuming cheek the autumnal leaf-like red.

CIII.

Perchance she died in age—surviving all,
Charms, kindred, children—with the silver grey
On her long tresses, which might yet recall,
It may be, still a something of the day [ray
When they were braided, and their proud ar-
And lovely form were envied, praised and eyed [stray?
By Rome—But whither would Conjecture
Thus much alone we know—Metella died,
The wealthiest Roman's wife: Behold his love or pride!

CIV.

I know not why—but standing thus by thee
It seems as if I had thine inmate known,
Thou tomb! and other days come back on me
With recollected music, though the tone
Is changed and solemn, like the cloudy groan
Of dying thunder on the distant wind;
Yet could I seat me by this ivied stone
Till I had bodied forth the heated mind
Forms from the floating wreck which Ruin leaves behind;

CV.

And from the planks, far shattered o'er the rocks,
Built me a little bark of hope, once more
To battle with the ocean and the shocks
Of the loud breakers, and the ceaseless roar
Which rushes on the solitary shore
Where all lies founder'd that was ever dear:

* "Ον οἱ θεοὶ φιλοῦσιν, ἀποθνήσκει νέος·
Τὸ γὰρ θανεῖν οὐκ αἰσχρὸν ἀλλ' αἰσχρῶς θανεῖν.
Rich. Franc. Phil. Brunck. Poetæ Gnomici, p. 231, edit. 1784.

But could I gather from the wave-worn store [steer?
Enough for my rude boat, where should I
ere woos no home, nor hope, nor life, save
what is here.

CVI.

Then let the winds howl on! their harmony
Shall henceforth be my music, and the night
The sound shall temper with the owlets' cry,
As I now hear them, in the fading light
Dim o'er the bird of darkness' native site,
Answer each other on the Palatine, [bright,
With their large eyes, all glistening grey and
And sailing pinions.—Upon such a shrine
hat are our petty griefs?—let me not num-
ber mine.

CVII.

Cypress and ivy, weed and wallflower grown
Matted and mass'd together, hillocks heap'd
On what were chambers, are crush'd, col-
umn strown [coes steep'd
In fragments, choked-up vaults and fres-
In subterranean damps, where the owl
peep'd, [halls?
Deeming it midnight:—Temples, baths, or
Pronounce who can; for all that Learning
reap'd [are walls—
From her research hath been, that these
chold the Imperial Mount! 'tis thus the
mighty falls.

CVIII.

There is the moral of all human tales;*
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past,
First Freedom, and then Glory—when that
fails,
Wealth, vice, corruption—barbarism at last.
And History, with all her volumes vast,
Hath but *one* page,—'tis better written here,
Where gorgeous Tyranny hath thus amass'd
All treasures, all delights, that eye or ear,
Heart, soul could seek, tongue ask—Away
with words! draw near.

CIX.

Admire, exult—despise—laugh, weep—for
here
There is such matter for all feelings:—Man!

* The author of the Life of Cicero, speaking of the opinion entertained of Britain by that orator and his contemporary Romans, has the following eloquent passage:—"From their mailleries of this kind, on the barbarity and misery of our island, one cannot help reflecting on the surprising fate and revolutions of kingdoms; how Rome, once the mistress of the world, the seat of arts, empire, and glory, now lies sunk in both, ignorance, and poverty, enslaved to the most cruel as well as to the most contemptible of tyrants, superstition and religious imposture; while this remote country, anciently the jest and contempt of the polite Romans, is become the happy seat of liberty, plenty, and letters; flourishing in all the arts and refinements of civil life; yet running, perhaps, the same course which Rome itself had run before it, from virtuous industry to wealth; from wealth to luxury; from luxury to an impatience of discipline, and corruption of morals: till by a total degeneracy and loss of virtue, being grown ripe for destruction, it fall a prey at last to some hardy oppressor, and, with the loss of liberty, lose everything that is valuable, sinks gradually again into its original barbarism." (See "History of the Life of M. Tullius Cicero," sect. vi. vol. ii. p. 102.)

Thou pendulum betwixt a smile and tear,
Age and realms are crowded in this span;
This mountain, whose obliterated plan
The pyramid of empires pinnacled,
Of Glory's gewgaws shining in the van
Till the sun's rays with added flame were
fill'd! [dared to build?
Where are its golden roofs? where those who

CX.

Tully was not so eloquent as thou, [base!
Thou nameless column with the buried
What are the laurels of the Cæsar's brow?
Crown me with ivy from his dwelling-place.
Whose arch or pillar meets me in the face,
Titus or Trajan's? No—'tis that of Time:
Triumph, arch, pillar, all he doth displace,
Scoffing; and apostolic statues climb
To crush the imperial urn, whose ashes slept
sublime,*

CXI.

Buried in air, the deep blue sky of Rome,
And looking to the stars; they had contain'd
A spirit which with these would find a home,
The last of those who o'er the whole earth
reign'd,
The Roman globe, for after none sustain'd,
But yielded back his conquests:—he was
Than a mere Alexander, and unstain'd [more
With household blood and wine, serenely
wore [adore.
His sovereign virtues—still we Trajan's name

CXII.

Where is the rock of Triumph, the high
place [the steep
Where Rome embraced her heroes? where
Tarpeian? fittest goal of Treason's race,
The promontory whence the Traitor's Leap
Cured all ambition. Did the Conquerors
heap [below,
Their spoils here? Yes; and in yon field
A thousand years of silenced factions sleep—
The Forum, where the immortal accents
glow, [with Cicero!
And still the eloquent air breathes—burns

CXIII.

The field of freedom, faction, fame and
blood; [haled,
Here a proud people's passions were ex-
From the first hour of empire in the bud
To that when further worlds to conquer
fail'd; [veil'd,
But long before had Freedom's face been
And Anarchy assumed her attributes;
Till every lawless soldier who assail'd
Trod on the trembling Senate's slavish
mutes,
Or raised the venal voice of baser prostitutes.

CXIV.

Then turn we to her latest tribune's name,
From her ten thousand tyrants turn to thee,
Redeemer of dark centuries of shame—

* The column of Trajan is surmounted by St. Peter: that of Aurelius by St. Paul.

The friend of Petrarch—hope of Italy—
Rienzi! last of Romans.* While the tree
Of freedom's wither'd trunk puts forth a leaf,
Even for thy tomb a garland let it be—
The forum's champion, and the people's chief— [too brief.
Her new-born Numa thou—with reign, alas!

CXV.

Egeria! sweet creation of some heart
Which found no mortal resting-place so fair
As thine ideal breast; whate'er thou art
Or wert,—a young Aurora of the air,
The nympholepsy of some fond despair:
Or, it might be, a beauty of the earth,
Who found a more than common votary there
Too much adoring; whatsoe'er thy birth,
Thou wert a beautiful thought, and softly bodied forth.

CXVI.

The mosses of thy fountain still are sprinkled
With thine Elysian water-drops; the face
Of thy cave-guarded spring, with years unwrinkled,
Reflects the meek-eyed genius of the place,
Whose green wild margin now no more erase [sleep,
Art's works; nor must the delicate waters
Prison'd in marble, bubbling from the base
Of the cleft statue, with a gentle leap
The rill runs o'er, and round, fern, flowers, and ivy creep

CXVII.

Fantastically tangled; the green hills [grass
Are clothed with early blossoms, through the
The quick-eyed lizard rustles, and the bills
Of summer birds sing welcome as ye pass:
Flowers fresh in hue, and many in their class, [dyes
Implore the pausing step, and with their
Dance in the soft breeze in a fairy mass;
The sweetness of the violet's deep blue eyes,
Kiss'd by the breath of heaven, seems color'd by its skies.

CXVIII.

Here didst thou dwell, in this enchanted cover
Egeria! thy all heavenly bosom beating
For the far footsteps of thy mortal lover;
The purple Midnight veil'd that mystic meeting
With her most starry canopy, and seating
Thyself by thine adorer, what befell?
This cave was surely shaped out for the greeting
Of an enamour'd Goddess, and the cell
Haunted by holy Love—the earliest oracle!

CXIX.

And didst thou not, thy breast to his replying,
Blend a celestial with a human heart;
And Love, which dies as it was born, in sighing, [thine art
Share with immortal transports? could
Make them indeed immortal, and impart
The purity of heaven to earthly joys,
Expel the venom and not blunt the dart—
The dull satiety which all destroys—
And root from out the soul the deadly weed which cloys?

CXX.

Alas! our young affections run to waste,
Or water but the desert; whence arise
But weeds of dark luxuriance, tares of haste,
Rank at the core, though tempting to the eyes,
Flowers whose wild odors breathe but agonies, [plants
And trees whose gums are poison; such the
Which spring beneath her steps as Passion flies [pants
O'er the world's wilderness, and vainly
For some celestial fruit forbidden to our wants.

CXXI.

O Love! no habitant of earth thou art—
An unseen seraph, we believe in thee,—
A faith whose martyrs are the broken heart,
But never yet hath seen, nor e'er shall see,
The naked eye, thy form, as it should be:
The mind hath made thee, as it peopled heaven,
Even with its own desiring phantasy,
And to a thought such shape and image given, [wearied—wrung—and riven.
As haunts the unquench'd soul—parch'd—

CXXII.

Of its own beauty is the mind diseased,
And fevers into false creation;—where,
Where are the forms the sculptor's soul hath seized?
In him alone. Can Nature show so fair?
Where are the charms and virtues which we dare
Conceive in boyhood and pursue as men,
The unreach'd Paradise of our despair,
Which o'er-informs the pencil and the pen,
And overpowers the page where it would bloom again?

CXXIII.

Who loves, raves—'tis youth's frenzy—but the cure [winds
Is better still; as charms by charm un-
Which robed our idols, and we see too sure
Nor worth nor beauty dwells from out the mind's
Ideal shape of such; yet still it binds
The fatal spell, and still it draws us on,
Reaping the whirlwind from the oft-sown winds;

* The life and exploits of Rienzi must be familiar to the reader of Gibbon. Some details and inedited manuscripts, relative to this unhappy hero, will be seen in the "Historical Illustrations of the Fourth Canto."

The stubborn heart, its alchemy begun,
ems ever near the prize—wealthiest when
most undone.

CXXIV.

We wither from our youth, we gasp away—
Sick—sick; unfound the boon—unslaked
the thirst,
Though to the last, in verge of our decay,
Some phantom lures, such as we sought at
first—
But all too late,—so are we doubly curst,
Love, fame, ambition, avarice—'tis the
same—
Each idle, and all ill, and none the worst—
For all are meteors with a different name,
nd Death the sable smoke where vanishes
the flame.

CXXV.

Few—none—find what they love or could
have loved:
Though accident, blind contact, and the
Necessity of loving, have removed [strong
Antipathies—but to recur, ere long,
Envenom'd with irrevocable wrong;
And Circumstance, that unspiritual god
And miscreator, makes and helps along
Our coming evils with a crutch-like rod,
hose touch turns Hope to dust—the dust we
all have trod.

CXXVI.

Our life is a false nature—'tis not in
The harmony of things,—this hard decree,
This uneradicable taint of sin,
This boundless upas, this all-blasting tree,
Whose root is earth, whose leaves and
branches be [like dew—
The skies which rain their plagues on men
Disease, death, bondage—all the woes we
see—
And worse, the woes we see not—which
throb through [new.
he immedicable soul, with heart-aches ever

CXXVII.

Yet let us ponder boldly*—'tis a base
Abandonment of reason to resign [place
Our right of thought—our last and only
Of refuge; this, at least, shall still be mine:
Though from our birth the faculty divine
Is chain'd and tortured—cabin'd, cribb'd,
confined, [shine
And bred in darkness, lest the truth should
Too brightly on the unprepar d mind,
The beam pours in, for time and skill will
couch the blind.

CXXVIII.

Arches on arches! as it were that Rome,
Collecting the chief trophies of her line,
Would build up all her triumphs in one
dome,
Her Coliseum stands; the moonbeams shine
As 'twere its natural torches, for divine
Should be the light which streams here, to
illume [mine
This long explored but still exhaustless
Of contemplation; and the azure gloom
Of an Italian night, where the deep skies assume

CXXIX.

Hues which have words, and speak to ye of
heaven, [ment,
Floats o'er this vast and wondrous monu-
And shadows forth its glory. There is given
Unto the things of earth, which Time hath
bent,
A spirit's feeling, and where he hath leant
His hand, but broke his scythe, there is a
And magic in the ruin'd battlement, [power
For which the palace of the present hour
Must yield its pomp, and wait till ages are its
dower.

CXXX.

O Time! the beautifier of the dead,
Adorner of the ruin, comforter
And only healer when the heart hath bled—
Time! the corrector where our judgments
err,
The test of truth, love,—sole philosopher,
For all beside are sophists, from thy thrift,
Which never loses though it doth defer—
Time, the avenger! unto thee I lift
My hands, and eyes, and heart, and crave of
thee a gift:

CXXXI.

Amidst this wreck, where thou hast made a
And temple more divinely desolate, [shrine
Among thy mightier offerings here are
mine, [fate:
Ruins of years—though few, yet full of
If thou hast ever seen me too elate,
Hear me not; but if calmly I have borne
Good, and reserved my pride against the
hate
Which shall not whelm me, let me not have
worn [mourn?
This iron in my soul in vain—shall *they* not

CXXXII.

And thou, who never yet of human wrong
Left the unbalanced scale, great Nemesis!
Here, where the ancient paid thee homage
long— [abyss,
Thou, who didst call the Furies from the

* "At all events," says the author of the "Academical questions," "I trust, whatever may be the fate of my own speculations, that philosophy will regain that estimation which it ought to possess. The free and philosophic spirit of our nation has been the theme of admiration to the world. This was the proud distinction of Englishmen, and the luminous source of all their glory. Shall we then forget the manly and dignified sentiments of our ancestors, to prate in the language of the mother or the nurse about our good old prejudices? This is not the way to defend the cause of truth. It was not thus that our fathers maintained it in the brilliant periods of our history. Prejudice may be trusted to guard the outworks for a short space of time, while reason slumbers in the citadel; but if the latter sink into a lethargy, the former will quickly erect a standard for herself. Philosophy, wisdom, and liberty support each other; he who will not reason is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not is a slave."—Vol. i., pref., pp. 14, 15.

And round Orestes bade them howl and hiss
For that unnatural retribution—just, [this
Had it but been from hands less near—in
Thy former realm, I call thee from the dust!
Dost thou not hear my heart?—Awake! thou shalt, and must.

CXXXIII.

It is not that I may not have incurr'd
For my ancestral faults or mine the wound
I bleed withal, and had it been conferr'd
With a just weapon, it had flow'd unbound,
But now my blood shall not sink in the ground;
To thee I do devote it—*thou* shalt take
The vengeance, which shall yet be sought and found,
Which if *I* have not taken for the sake—
But let that pass—I sleep, but thou shalt yet awake.

CXXXIV.

And if my voice break forth, 'tis not that now
I shrink from what is suffer'd: let him speak
Who hath beheld decline upon my brow,
Or seen my mind's convulsion leave it weak;
But in this page a record will I seek.
Not in the air shall these my words disperse,
Though I be ashes; a far hour shall wreak
The deep prophetic fulness of this verse,
And pile on human heads the mountain of my curse!

CXXXV.

That curse shall be Forgiveness.—Have I not— [Heaven!—
Hear me, my mother Earth! behold it,
Have I not had to wrestle with my lot?
Have I not suffer'd things to be forgiven?
Have I not had my brain sear'd, my heart riven, [away?
Hopes sapp'd, name blighted, Life's life lied
And only not to desperation driven,
Because not altogether of such clay
As rots into the souls of those whom I survey.

CXXXVI.

From mighty wrongs to petty perfidy [do?
Have I not seen what human things could
From the loud roar of foaming calumny
To the small whisper of the as paltry few
And subtler venom of the reptile crew,
The Janus glance of whose significant eye,
Learning to lie with silence, would *seem* true,
And without utterance, save the shrug or sigh, [quy.
Deal round to happy fools its speechless obloquy.

CXXXVII.

But I have lived, and have not lived in vain:
My mind may lose its force, my blood its fire, [pain;
And my frame perish even in conquering
But there is that within me which shall tire
Torture and Time, and breathe when I expire; [of,
Something unearthly, which they deem not
Like the remember'd tone of a mute lyre,
Shall on their soften'd spirits sink, and move
In hearts all rocky now the late remorse of love.

CXXXVIII.

The seal is set.—Now welcome, thou dread power!
Nameless, yet thus omnipotent, which here
Walk'st in the shadow of the midnight hour
With a deep awe, yet all distinct from fear:
Thy haunts are ever where the dead walls
Their ivy mantles, and the solemn scene [rear
Derives from thee a sense so deep and clear
That we become a part of what has been,
And grow unto the spot, all-seeing but unseen.

CXXXIX.

And here the buzz of eager nations ran,
In murmur'd pity, or loud-roar'd applause,
As man was slaughter'd by his fellow-man.
And wherefore slaughter'd? wherefore, but because
Such were the bloody Circus' genial laws,
And the imperial pleasure.—Wherefore not?
What matters where we fall to fill the maws
Of worms—on battle-plains or listed spot?
Both are but theatres where the chief actors rot.

CXL.

I see before me the Gladiator lie:
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow
Consents to death, but conquers agony,
And his droop'd head sinks gradually low—
And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow
From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,
Like the first of a thunder-shower; and now
The arena swims around him—he is gone,
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hail'd the wretch who won.

CXLI.

He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes
Were with his heart, and that was far away;
He reck'd not of the life he lost nor prize,
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay,
There were his young barbarians all at play,
There was their Dacian mother—he, their
Butcher'd to make a Roman holiday— [sire,
All this rush'd with his blood—Shall he expire, [your ire.
And unavenged?—Arise! ye Goths, and glut

CXLII.

But here, where Murder breathed her bloody steam; [the ways,
And here, where buzzing nations choked
And roar'd or murmur'd like a mountain stream
Dashing or winding as its torrent strays;
Here, where the Roman million's blame or praise
Was death or life, the playthings of a crowd,
My voice sounds much—and fall the stars' faint rays [bow'd—
On the arena void—seats crush'd, walls
And galleries, where my steps seem echoes strangely loud.

CXLIII.

A ruin—yet what ruin! from its mass
Walls, palaces, half-cities, have been rear'd;
Yet oft the enormous skeleton ye pass,
And marvel where the spoil could have appear'd. [clear'd?
Hath it indeed been plunder'd, or but
Alas! developed, opens the decay,
When the colossal fabric's form is near'd:
It will not bear the brightness of the day,
Which streams too much on all years, man, have reft away.

CXLIV.

But when the rising moon begins to climb
Its topmost arch, and gently pauses there;
When the stars twinkle through the loops of time, [air,
And the low night-breeze waves along the
The garland-forest, which the grey walls wear,
Like laurels on the bald first Cæsar's head;*
When the light shines serene, but doth not glare,
Then in this magic circle raise the dead:
Heroes have trod this spot—'tis on their dust ye tread.

CXLV.

"While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;†
When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall;
And when Rome falls—the World." From our own land [wall
Thus spake the pilgrims o'er this mighty
In Saxon times, which we are wont to call
Ancient; and these three mortal things are still
On their foundations, and unalter'd all;
Rome and her Ruin past Redemption's skill,
The World, the same wide den—of thieves, or what ye will.

CXLVI.

Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime—
Shrine of all saints and temple of all gods,
From Jove to Jesus‡—spared and blest by time;
Looking tranquillity, while falls or nods
Arch, empire, each thing round thee, and man plods [dome!
His way through thorns to ashes—glorious
Shalt thou not last?—Time's scythe and tyrants' rods
Shiver upon thee—sanctuary and home
Of art and piety—Pantheon!—pride of Rome!

CXLVII.

Relic of nobler days, and noblest arts!
Despoil'd yet perfect, with thy circle spreads
A holiness appealing to all hearts—
To art a model; and to him who treads
Rome for the sake of ages, Glory sheds
Her light through thy sole aperture; to those
Who worship, here are altars for their beads;
And they who feel for genius may repose
Their eyes on honor'd forms, whose busts around them close.*

CXLVIII.

There is a dungeon, in whose dim drear light†
What do I gaze on? Nothing: Look again!
Two forms are slowly shadow'd on my sight—
Two insulated phantoms of the brain:
It is not so; I see them full and plain—
An old man, and a female young and fair,
Fresh as a nursing mother, in whose vein
The blood is nectar:—but what doth she there, [and bare?
With her unmantled neck, and bosom white

CXLIX.

Full swells the deep pure fountain of young life, [took
Where *on* the heart and *from* the heart we
Our first and sweetest nurture, when the wife,
Blest into mother, in the innocent look,
Or even the piping cry of lips that brook
No pain and small suspense, a joy perceives
Man knows not, when from out its cradled nook
She sees her little bud put forth its leaves—
What may the fruit be yet?—I know not—Cain was Eve's.

CL.

But here youth offers to old age the food,
The milk of his own gift:—it is her sire
To whom she renders back the debt of blood
Born with her birth. No; he shall not expire
While in those warm and lovely veins the fire
Of health and holy feeling can provide
Great Nature's Nile, whose deep stream rises higher

* Suetonius informs us that Julius Cæsar was particularly gratified by that decree of the senate which enabled him to wear a wreath of laurel on all occasions. He was anxious, not to show that he was the conqueror of the world, but to hide that he was bald. A stranger at Rome would hardly have guessed at the motive, nor should we without the help of the historian.

† This is quoted in the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," as a proof that the Coliseum was entire, when seen by the Anglo-Saxon pilgrims at the end of the seventh, or the beginning of the eighth, century.

‡ "Though plundered of all its brass, except the ring which was necessary to preserve the aperture above; though exposed to repeated fires; though sometimes flooded by the river, and always open to the rain, no monument of equal antiquity is so well preserved as this rotundo. It passed with little alteration from the Pagan into the present worship: and so convenient were its niches for the Christian altar, that Michael Angelo, ever studious of ancient beauty, introduced their design as a model in the Catholic Church."—"Forsyth's Italy," p. 137, second edition.

* The Pantheon had been made a receptacle for the busts of modern great, or, at least, distinguished men. The flood of light which once fell through the large orb above on the whole circle of divinities, now shines on a numerous assemblage of mortals, some one or two of whom have been almost deified by the veneration of their countrymen.

† This and the three next stanzas allude to the story of the Roman daughter, which is recalled to the traveller by the site, or pretended site, of that adventure, now shown at the church of St. Nicholas in Carcere.

Than Egypt's river:—from that gentle side
Drink, drink and live, old man! Heaven's realm holds no such tide.

CLI.

The starry fable of the milky way
Has not thy story's purity; it is
A constellation of a sweeter ray,
And sacred Nature triumphs more in this
Reverse of her decree, than in the abyss
Where sparkle distant worlds: Oh, holiest nurse! [miss
No drop of that clear stream its way shall
To thy sire's heart, replenishing its source
With life, as our freed souls rejoin the universe.

CLII.

Turn to the Mole which Hadrian rear'd on high,*
Imperial mimic of old Egypt's piles,
Colossal copyist of deformity,
Whose travell'd phantasy from the far Nile's
Enormous model, doom'd the artist's toils
To build for giants, and for his vain earth,
His shrunken ashes, raise this dome: How smiles
The gazer's eye with philosophic mirth,
To view the huge design which sprung from such a birth!

CLIII.

But lo! the dome—the vast and wondrous dome,†
To which Diana's marvel was a cell—
Christ's mighty shrine above his martyr's tomb!
I have beheld the Ephesian's miracle—
Its columns strew the wilderness, and dwell
The hyæna and the jackal in their shade;
I have beheld Sophia's bright roofs swell
Their glittering mass i' the sun, and have survey'd [pray'd;
Its sanctuary the while the usurping Moslem

CLIV.

But thou, of temples old, or altars new,
Standest alone—with nothing like to thee—
Worthiest of God, the holy and the true.
Since Zion's desolation, when that He
Forsook His former city, what could be,
Of earthly structures, in His honor piled,
Of a sublimer aspect? Majesty, [aisled,
Power, Glory, Strength, and Beauty, all are
In this eternal ark of worship undefiled.

CLV.

Enter: its grandeur overwhelms thee not;
And why? it is not lessen'd; but thy mind,
Expanded by the genius of the spot,
Has grown colossal, and can only find
A fit abode wherein appear enshrined
Thy hopes of immortality; and thou
Shalt one day, if found worthy, so defined,
See thy God face to face, as thou dost now
His Holy of Holies, nor be blasted by His brow.

CLVI.

Thou movest—but increasing with the advance, [doth rise,
Like climbing some great Alp, which still
Deceived by its gigantic elegance; [nize—
Vastness which grows—but grows to harmo-
All musical in its immensities;
Rich marbles—richer painting—shrines where flame [which vies
The lamps of gold—and haughty dome
In air with Earth's chief structures, though their frame [clouds must claim.
Sits on the firm-set ground—and this the

CLVII.

Thou seest not all: but piecemeal thou must break,
To separate contemplation, the great whole;
And as the ocean many bays will make,
That asks the eye—so here condense thy soul
To more immediate objects, and control
Thy thoughts until thy mind hath got by heart
Its eloquent proportions, and unroll
In mighty graduations, part by part, [dart.
The glory which at once upon thee did not

CLVIII.

Not by its fault—but thine: Our outward sense
Is but of gradual grasp—and as it is
That what we have of feeling most intense
Outstrips our faint expression; even so this
Outshining and o'erwhelming edifice
Fools our fond gaze, and greatest of the great
Defies at first our Nature's littleness,
Till, growing with its growth, we thus dilate
Our spirits to the size of that they contemplate.

CLIX.

Then pause and be enlighten'd; there is more
In such a survey than the sating gaze
Of wonder pleased, or awe which would adore
The worship of the place, or the mere praise
Of art and its great masters, who could raise
What former time, nor skill, nor thought could plan;
The fountain of sublimity displays [man
Its depth, and thence may draw the mind of
Its golden sands, and learn what great conceptions can.

CLX.

Or, turning to the Vatican, go see
Laocoön's torture dignifying pain—
A father's love and mortal's agony [Vain
With an immortal's patience blending:—
The struggle; vain, against the coiling strain [grasp,
And gripe, and deepening of the dragon's
The old man's clench; the long envenom'd chain

* The Castle of St. Angelo.

† This and the six next stanzas have a reference to the church of St. Peter's. For a measurement of the comparative length of this basilica and the other great churches of Europe, see the pavement of St. Peter's, and the "Classical Tour through Italy," vol. ii. p. 125 et seq., chap. iv.

Rivets the living links,—the enormous asp
nforces pang on pang, and stifles gasp on gasp.

CLXI.

Or view the Lord of the unerring bow,
The God of life, and poesy, and light—
The Sun in human limbs array'd, and brow
All radiant from his triumph in the fight;
The shaft hath just been shot—the arrow bright
With an immortal's vengeance; in his eye
And nostril beautiful disdain, and might
And majesty, flash their full lightnings by,
eveloping in that one glance the Deity.

CLXII.

But in his delicate form—a dream of Love,
Shaped by some solitary nymph, whose breast
Long'd for a deathless lover from above,
And madden'd in that vision—are exprest
All that ideal beauty ever bless'd
The mind with in its most unearthly mood,
When each conception was a heavenly guest—
A ray of immortality—and stood,
tarlike, around, until they gather'd to a god!

CLXIII.

And if it be Prometheus stole from heaven
The fire which we endure, it was repaid
By him to whom the energy was given
Which this poetic marble hath array'd
With an eternal glory—which, if made
By human hands, is not of human thought;
And Time himself hath hallow'd it, nor laid
One ringlet in the dust—nor hath it caught
tinge of years, but breathes the flame with which 'twas wrought.

CLXIV.

But where is he, the Pilgrim of my song,
The being who upheld it through the past?
Methinks he cometh late and tarries long.
He is no more—these breathings are his last;
His wanderings done, his visions ebbing fast,
And he himself as nothing:—if he was
Aught but a phantasy, and could be class'd
With forms which live and suffer—let that pass—
His shadow fades away into Destruction's mass,

CLXV.

Which gathers shadow, substance, life, and all
That we inherit in its mortal shroud,
And spreads the dim and universal pall
Through which all things grow phantoms; and the cloud
Between us sinks and all which ever glow'd,
Till Glory's self is twilight, and displays
A melancholy halo scarce allow'd
To hover on the verge of darkness: rays
Sadder than saddest night, for they distract the gaze,

CLXVI.

And send us prying into the abyss,
To gather what we shall be when the frame
Shall be resolved to something less than this
Its wretch'd essence; and to dream of fame,
And wipe the dust from off the idle name
We never more shall hear,—but never more,
Oh, happier thought! can we be made the same;
It is enough, in sooth, that *once* we bore
These fardels of the heart—the heart whose sweat was gore.

CLXVII.

Hark! forth from the abyss a voice proceeds,
A long low distant murmur of dread sound,
Such as arises when a nation bleeds
With some deep and immedicable wound;
Through storm and darkness yawns the rending ground,
The gulf is thick with phantoms, but the chief
Seems royal still, though with her head discrown'd,
And pale, but lovely, with maternal grief
She clasps a babe, to whom her breast yields no relief.

CLXVIII.

Scion of chiefs and monarchs, where art thou?
Fond hope of many nations, art thou dead?
Could not the grave forget thee, and lay low
Some less majestic, less beloved head?
In the sad midnight, while thy heart still bled,
The mother of a moment, o'er thy boy,
Death hush'd that pang for ever; with thee fled
The present happiness and promised joy
Which fill'd the imperial isles so full it seem'd to cloy.

CLXIX.

Peasants bring forth in safety.—Can it be,
O thou that wert so happy, so adored!
Those who weep not for kings shall weep for thee,
And Freedom's heart, grown heavy, cease to hoard,
Her many griefs for ONE; for she had pour'd
Her orisons for thee, and o'er thy head
Beheld her Iris.—Thou, too, lonely lord,
And desolate consort—vainly wert thou wed!
The husband of a year! the father of the dead!

CLXX.

Of sackcloth was thy wedding garment made;
Thy bridal's fruit is ashes; in the dust
The fair-hair'd Daughter of the Isles is laid,
The love of millions! How we did entrust
Futurity to her! and, though it must
Darken above our bones, yet fondly deem'd
Our children should obey her child, and bless'd
Her and her hoped-for seed, whose promise seem'd
Like star to shepherds' eyes; 'twas but a meteor beam'd.

CLXXI.

Woe unto us, not her; for she sleeps well:
The fickle reek of popular breath, the tongue

Of hollow counsel, the false oracle,
Which from the birth of monarchy hath rung
Its knell in princely ears, till the o'erstrung
Nations have arm'd in madness, the strange fate* [hath flung
Which tumbles mightiest sovereigns, and
Against their blind omnipotence a weight
Within the opposing scale, which crushes soon or late,—

CLXXII.

These might have been her destiny; but no,
Our hearts deny it: and so young, so fair,
Good without effort, great without a foe;
But now a bride and mother—and now *there!*
How many ties did that stern moment tear!
From thy Sire's to his humblest subject's breast
Is link'd the electric chain of that despair,
Whose shock was as an earthquake's, and opprest [could love thee best.
The land which loved thee so, that none

CLXXIII.

Lo, Nemi! navell'd in the woody hills†
So far, that the uprooting wind which tears
The oak from his foundation, and which spills
The ocean o'er its boundary, and bears
Its foam against the skies, reluctant spares
The oval mirror of thy glassy lake; [wears
And, calm as cherish'd hate, its surface
A deep cold settled aspect nought can shake,
All coil'd into itself and round, as sleeps the snake.

CLXXIV.

And near Albano's scarce divided waves
Shine from a sister valley;—and afar
The Tiber winds, and the broad ocean laves
The Latian coast where sprung the Epic war, [star
"Arms and the Man," whose re-ascending
Rose o'er an empire;—but beneath thy right
Tully reposed from Rome;—and where yon bar
Of girdling mountains intercepts the sight,
The Sabine farm was till'd, the weary bard's delight.

CLXXV.

But I forget.—My Pilgrim's shrine is won,
And he and I must part,—so let it be,—
His task and mine alike are nearly done;
Yet once more let us look upon the sea:
The midland ocean breaks on him and me,
And from the Alban Mount we now behold
Our friend of youth, that ocean, which when we
Beheld it last by Calpe's rock unfold
Those waves, we follow'd on till the dark Euxine roll'd

CLXXVI.

Upon the blue Symplegades: long years—
Long, though not very many—since have done [some tears
Their work on both; some suffering and
Have left us nearly where we had begun:
Yet not in vain our mortal race hath run,
We have had our reward—and it is here;
That we can yet feel gladden'd by the sun,
And reap from earth, sea, joy almost as dear [clear.
As if there were no man to trouble what is

CLXXVII.

Oh! that the Desert were my dwelling place,
With one fair Spirit for my minister,
That I might all forget the human race,
And, hating no one, love but only her!
Ye Elements!—in whose ennobling stir
I feel myself exalted—can ye not
Accord me such a being? Do I err
In deeming such inhabit many a spot?
Though with them to converse can rarely be our lot.

CLXXVIII.

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

CLXXIX.

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean—roll!
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain;
Man marks the earth with ruin—his control
Stops with the shore;—upon the watery plain [main
The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth re-
A shadow of man's ravage, save his own,
When for a moment, like a drop of rain,
He sinks into thy depths with bubbling groan, [unknown.
Without a grave, unknell'd, uncoffin'd and

CLXXX.

His steps are not upon thy paths—thy fields
Are not a spoil for him—thou dost arise
And shake him from thee; the vile strength he wields
For earth's destruction thou dost all despise,
Spurning him from thy bosom to the skies,
And send'st him, shivering in thy playful spray,
And howling, to his Gods, where haply lies

* Mary died on the scaffold; Elizabeth of a broken heart; Charles V. a hermit; Louis XIV. a bankrupt in means and glory: Cromwell of anxiety; and Napoleon, "the greatest is behind," lives a prisoner. To these sovereigns a long but superfluous list might be added of names equally illustrious and unhappy.

† The village of Nemi was near the Arician retreat of Egeria, and from the shades which embosomed the temple of Diana, has preserved to this day its distinctive appellation of "The Grove." Nemi is but an evening's ride from the comfortable inn of Albano.

His petty hope in some near port or bay,
ıd dashest him again to earth—there let
him lay.

CLXXXI.

The armaments which thunderstrike the
walls
Of rock-built cities, bidding nations quake,
And monarchs tremble in their capitals,
The oak leviathans, whose huge ribs make
Their clay creator the vain title take
Of lord of thee, and arbiter of war;
These are thy toys, and, as the snowy flake,
They melt into thy yeast of waves, which
mar [falgar.
like the Armada's pride, or spoils of Tra-

CLXXXII.

Thy shores are empires, changed in all save
thee— [they?
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, what are
Thy waters wasted them while they were
free,
And many a tyrant since: their shores obey
The stranger, slave or savage; their decay
Has dried up realms to deserts:—not so thou,
Unchangeable save to thy wild waves'
play— [brow—
Time writes no wrinkle on thine azure
uch as creation's dawn beheld, thou rollest
now.

CLXXXIII.

Thou glorious mirror, where the Almighty's
form
Glasses itself in tempests: in all time,
Calm or convulsed—in breeze, or gale, or
storm,
Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime
Dark-heaving;—boundless, endless, and
sublime—
The image of Eternity—the throne
Of the Invisible; even from out thy slime
The monsters of the deep are made; each
zone [less, alone.
Obeys thee; thou goest forth, dread, fathom-

CLXXXIV.

And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to be
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward: from a
boy
I wanton'd with thy breakers—they to me
Were a delight; and if the freshening sea
Made them a terror—'twas a pleasing fear,
For I was as it were a child of thee,
And trusted to thy billows far and near,
And laid my hand upon thy name—as I do
here.

CLXXXV.

My task is done—my song hath ceased—my
Has died into an echo; it is fit [theme
The spell should break of this protracted
dream. [lit
The torch shall be extinguish'd which hath
My midnight lamp, and what is writ, is
writ—
Would it were worthier! but I am not now
That which I have been—and my visions flit
Less palpably before me—and the glow
Which in my spirit dwelt is fluttering, faint,
and low.

CLXXXVI.

Farewell! a word that must be, and hath
been— [well!
A sound which makes us linger;—yet, fare-
Ye, who have traced the Pilgrim to the
scene
Which is his last, if in your memories dwell
A thought which once was his, if on ye
swell
A single recollection, not in vain
He wore his sandal-shoon and scallop-shell;
Farewell! with *him* alone may rest the pain,
If such there were—with *you* the moral of his
strain.

TALES.

THE GIAOUR:*

A FRAGMENT OF A TURKISH TALE.

1813.

"One fatal remembrance—one sorrow that throws
Its bleak shade alike o'er our joys and our woes—
To which Life nothing darker nor brighter can bring,
For which joy hath no balm—and affliction no sting."—MOORE.

TO SAMUEL ROGERS, Esq.,

AS A SLIGHT BUT MOST SINCERE TOKEN OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS GENIUS,
RESPECT FOR HIS CHARACTER,
AND GRATITUDE FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP,
THIS PRODUCTION IS INSCRIBED,
BY HIS OBLIGED AND AFFECTIONATE SERVANT.

LONDON, *May*, 1813. BYRON.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE tale which these disjointed fragments present is founded upon circumstances now less common in the East than formerly; either because the ladies are more circumspect than in the "olden time," or because the Chris-

* Giaour—an Infidel. The "g" is sounded soft, as before "e" in English.

tians have better fortune, or less enterprise. The story, when entire, contained the adventures of a female slave, who was thrown, in the Mussulman manner, into the sea for infidelity, and avenged by a young Venetian, her lover, at the time the Seven Islands were possessed by the Republic of Venice, and soon after the Arnauts were beaten back from the Morea, which they had ravaged for some time subsequent to the Russian invasion. The desertion of the Mainotes, on being refused the plunder of Mistra, led to the abandonment of that enterprise, and to the desolation of the Morea, during which the cruelty exercised on all sides was unparalleled even in the annals of the faithful.

No breath of air to break the wave
That rolls below the Athenian's grave,
That tomb which, gleaming o'er the cliff,*
First greets the homeward-veering skiff,
High o'er the land he saved in vain—
When shall such hero live again?

. . . . . .

Fair clime! where every season smiles
Benignant o'er these blessed isles,
Which, seen from far Colonna's height,
Make glad the heart that hails the sight,
And lend to loneliness delight.
There mildly dimpling, Ocean's cheek
Reflects the tints of many a peak
Caught by the laughing tides that lave
These Edens of the Eastern wave;
And if at times a transient breeze
Break the blue crystal of the seas,
Or sweep one blossom from the trees,
How welcome is each gentle air
That wakes and wafts the odors there?
For there—the Rose o'er crag or vale,
Sultana of the Nightingale,†
The maid for whom his melody,
His thousand songs are heard on high,
Blooms blushing to her lover's tale:
His queen, the garden queen, his Rose,
Unbent by winds, unchill'd by snows,
Far from the winters of the West,
By every breeze and season blest,
Returns the sweets by nature given
In soft incense back to heaven;
And grateful yields that smiling sky
Her fairest hue and fragrant sigh.
And many a summer flower is there,
And many a shade that love might share,
And many a grotto meant for rest,
That holds the pirate for a guest:
Whose bark in sheltering cove below
Lurks for the passing peaceful prow,
Till the gay mariner's guitar‡
Is heard, and seen the evening star;
Then stealing with the muffled oar,
Far shaded by the rocky shore,
Rush the night-prowlers on the prey,
And turn to groans his roundelay.
Strange—that where Nature loved to trace,
As if for Gods, a dwelling-place,
And every grace and charm hath mix'd
Within the paradise she fix'd,
There man, enamor'd of distress,
Should mar it into wilderness,
And trample, brute-like, o'er each flower
That tasks not one laborious hour;
Nor claims the culture of his hand
To bloom along the fairy land,
But springs as to preclude his care,
And sweetly woos him—but to spare!
Strange—that where all is peace beside,
There passion riots in her pride,
And lust and rapine wildly reign,
To darken o'er the fair domain.
It is as though the fiends prevail'd
Against the seraphs they assail'd,
And, fix'd on heavenly thrones, should dwell
The freed inheritors of hell;
So soft the scene, so form'd for joy,
So curst the tyrants that destroy!

He who hath bent him o'er the dead
Ere the first day of death is fled,
The first dark day of nothingness,
The last of danger and distress,
(Before Decay's effacing fingers
Have swept the lines where beauty lingers,)
And mark'd the mild angelic air—
The rapture of repose that's there—
Tho fix'd yet tender traits that streak
The languor of the placid cheek,
And—but for that sad shrouded eye,
That fires not, wins not, weeps not, now,
And but for that chill, changeless brow,
Where cold Obstruction's apathy*
Appals the gazing mourner's heart,
As if to him it could impart
The doom he dreads, yet dwells upon;
Yes, but for these and these alone,
Some moments, aye, one treacherous hour,
He still might doubt the tyrant's power;
So fair, so calm, so softly seal'd,
The first, last look by death reveal'd!†
Such is the aspect of this shore;
'Tis Greece, but living Greece no more!
So coldly sweet, so deadly fair,
We start, for soul is wanting there.
Hers is the loveliness in death,
That parts not quite with parting breath;
But beauty with that fearful bloom,
That hue which haunts it to the tomb,
Expression's last receding ray,
A gilded halo hovering round decay,
The farewell beam of Feeling pass'd away!

* A tomb above the rocks on the promontory, by some supposed the sepulchre of Themistocles.

† The attachment of the nightingale to the rose is a well-known Persian fable. If I mistake not, the "Bulbul of a thousand tales" is one of his appellations.

‡ The guitar is the constant amusement of the Greek sailor by night: with a steady fair wind, and during a calm, it is accompanied always by the voice, and often by dancing.

* Ay, but to die, to go we know not where,
To lie in cold obstruction.
"Measure for Measure," Act. iii. Sc. 1.

† I trust that few of my readers have ever had an opportunity of witnessing what is here attempted in description: but those who have will probably retain a painful remembrance of that singular beauty which pervades, with few exceptions, the features of the dead, a few hours, and but a few hours, after "the spirit is not there." It is to be remarked in cases of violent death by gunshot wounds, the expression is always that of languor, whatever the natural energy of the sufferer's character: but in death from a stab, the countenance preserves its traits of feeling or ferocity, and the mind its bias, to the last.

Spark of that flame, perchance of heavenly birth—
Which gleams, but warms no more its cher-ish'd earth!

Clime of the unforgotten brave!
Whose land from plain to mountain-cave
Was Freedom's home, or Glory's grave!
Shrine of the mighty! can it be
That this is all remains of thee?
Approach, thou craven crouching slave:
Say, is not this Thermopylæ?
These waters blue that round you lave,
O servile offspring of the free—
Pronounce what sea, what shore is this?
The gulf, the rock of Salamis!
These scenes, their story not unknown,
Arise, and make again your own;
Snatch from the ashes of your sires
The embers of their former fires;
And he who in the strife expires
Will add to theirs a name of fear,
That Tyranny shall quake to hear,
And leave his sons a hope, a fame,
They too will rather die than shame:
For Freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeathed by bleeding Sire to Son,
Though baffled oft is ever won.
Bear witness, Greece, thy living page!
Attest it many a deathless age!
While kings, in dusty darkness hid,
Have left a nameless pyramid,
Thy heroes, though the general doom
Hath swept the column from their tomb,
A mightier monument command,
The mountains of their native land!
There points thy Muse to stranger's eye
The graves of those that cannot die!
'Twere long to tell, and sad to trace,
Each step from splendor to disgrace;
Enough—no foreign foe could quell
Thy soul, till from itself it fell;
Yes! Self-abasement paved the way
To villain-bonds and despot sway.

What can he tell who treads thy shore?
No legend of thine olden time,
No theme on which the muse might soar,
High as thine own in days of yore,
When man was worthy of thy clime.
The hearts within thy valleys bred,
The fiery souls that might have led
Thy sons to deeds sublime,
Now crawl from cradle to the grave,
Slaves—nay, the bondsmen of a slave,*
And callous, save to crime;
Stain'd with each evil that pollutes
Mankind, where least above the brutes;
Without even savage virtues blest,
Without one free or valiant breast.
Still to the neighboring ports they waft
Proverbial wiles, and ancient craft;
In this the subtle Greek is found,
For this, and this alone, renown'd.
In vain might Liberty invoke
The spirit to its bondage broke,
Or raise the neck that courts the yoke;
No more her sorrows I bewail,
Yet this will be a mournful tale,
And they who listen may believe,
Who heard it first had cause to grieve.

. . . . . .

Far, dark, along the blue sea glancing,
The shadows of the rocks advancing,
Start on the fisher's eye like boat
Of island-pirate or Mainote;
And fearful for his light caïque,
He shuns the near but doubtful creek:
Though worn and weary with his toil,
And cumber'd with his scaly spoil,
Slowly, yet strongly, plies the oar,
Till Porte Leone's safer shore
Receives him by the lovely light
That best becomes an Eastern night.

. . . . . .

Who thundering comes on blackest steed,
With slacken'd bit and hoof of speed?
Beneath the clattering iron's sound
The cavern'd echoes wake around
In lash for lash and bound for bound;
The foam that streaks the courser's side,
Seems gather'd from the ocean-tide:
Though weary waves are sunk to rest,
There's none within his rider's breast;
And though to-morrow's tempest lower,
'Tis calmer than thy heart, young Giaour!
I know thee not, I loathe thy race,
But in thy lineaments I trace
What time shall strengthen, not efface;
Though young and pale, that sallow front
Is scathed by fiery passion's brunt;
Though bent on earth thine evil eye,
As meteor-like thou glidest by,
Right well I view and deem the one
Whom Othman's sons should slay or shun.

On—on he hasten'd, and he drew
My gaze of wonder as he flew:
Though like a demon of the night
He pass'd, and vanish'd from my sight;
His aspect and his air impress'd
A troubled memory on my breast,
And long upon my startled ear,
Rung his dark courser's hoofs of fear.
He spurs his steed; he nears the steep,
That, jutting, shadows o'er the deep;
He winds around; he hurries by;
The rock relieves him from mine eye;
For well I ween unwelcome he
Whose glance is fix'd on those that flee;
And not a star but shines too bright
On him who takes such timeless flight.
He wound along; but ere he pass'd
One glance he snatch'd, as if his last,
A moment check'd his wheeling steed,
A moment breathed him from his speed,
A moment on his stirrup stood—
Why looks he o'er the olive wood?
The crescent glimmers on the hill,

* Athens is the property of the Kislar Aga (the slave of the seraglio and guardian of the women) who appoints the Waywode. A pander and eunuch—these are not polite, yet true appellations—now governs the governor of Athens.

The Mosque's high lamps are quivering still ;
Though too remote for sound to wake
In echoes of the far tophaike,*
The flashes of each joyous peal
Are seen to prove the Moslem's zeal.
To-night, set Rhamazani's sun ;
To-night, the Bairam's feast's begun ;
To-night—but who and what art thou
Of foreign garb and fearful brow ?
And what are these to thine or thee,
That thou shouldst either pause or flee ?

He stood—some dread was on his face,
Soon Hatred settled in its place :
It rose not with the reddening flush
Of transient Anger's hasty blush,
But pale as marble o'er the tomb,
Whose ghastly whiteness aids its gloom.
His brow was bent, his eye was glazed ;
He raised his arm, and fiercely raised
And sternly shook his hand on high,
As doubting to return or fly ;
Impatient of his flight delay'd,
Here loud his raven charger neigh'd—[blade;
Down glanced that hand, and grasp'd his
That sound had burst his waking dream,
As Slumber starts at owlet's scream.
The spur hath lanced his courser's sides ;
Away, away, for life he rides ;
Swift as the hurl'd on high jerreed†
Springs to the touch his startled steed ;
The rock is doubled, and the shore
Shakes with the clattering tramp no more ;
The crag is won, no more is seen
His Christian crest and haughty mien.
'Twas but an instant he restrain'd
That fiery barb so sternly rein'd ;
'Twas but a moment that he stood,
Then sped as if by death pursued ;
But in that instant o'er his soul
Winters of Memory seem'd to roll,
And gather in that drop of time
A life of pain, an age of crime.
O'er him who loves, or hates, or fears,
Such moment pours the grief of years :
What felt *he* then, at once opprest
By all that most distracts the breast ?
That pause, which ponder'd o'er his fate,
Oh, who its dreary length shall date !
Though in Time's record nearly nought,
It was Eternity to Thought !
For infinite as boundless space
The thought that Conscience must embrace,
Which in itself can comprehend
Woe without name, or hope, or end.

The hour is past, the Giaour is gone ;
And did he fly or fall alone ?
Woe to that hour he came or went !
The curse of Hassan's sin was sent
To turn a palace to a tomb :
He came, he went, like the Simoom,*
That harbinger of fate and gloom,
Beneath whose widely-wasting breath
The very cypress droops to death—
Dark tree, still sad when others' grief is fled,
The only constant mourner o'er the dead !

The steed is vanish'd from the stall ;
No serf is seen in Hassan's hall ;
The lonely spider's thin grey pall
Waves slowly widening o'er the wall ;
The bat builds in his Haram bower,
And in the fortress of his power
The owl usurps the beacon-tower ;
The wild-dog howls o'er the fountain's brim,
With baffled thirst, and famine grim ;
For the stream has shrunk from its marble bed,
Where the weeds and the desolate dust are spread.
'Twas sweet of yore to see it play,
And chase the sultriness of day,
As springing high the silver dew
In whirls fantastically flew,
And flung luxurious coolness round
The air, and verdure o'er the ground.
'Twas sweet, when cloudless stars were bright,
To view the wave of watery light,
And hear its melody by night.
And oft had Hassan's Childhood play'd
Around the verge of that cascade ;
And oft upon his mother's breast
That sound had harmonized his rest ;
And oft had Hassan's Youth along
Its bank been soothed by Beauty's song ;
And softer seem'd each melting tone
Of Music mingled with its own.
But ne'er shall Hassan's Age repose
Along the bank at Twilight's close :
The stream that fill'd that font is fled—
The blood that warm'd his heart is shed !
And here no more shall human voice
Be heard to rage, regret, rejoice.
The last sad note that swell'd the gale
Was woman's wildest funeral wail :
That quench'd in silence, all is still, [shrill ;
But the lattice that flaps when the wind is
Though raves the gust, and floods the rain,
No hand shall close its clasp again.
On desert sands 'twere joy to scan
The rudest steps of fellow-man,
So here the very voice of Grief
Might wake an Echo like relief—
At least 'twould say, "All are not gone;
There lingers Life, though but in one"—
For many a gilded chamber's there,
Which Solitude might well forbear;
Within that dome as yet Decay
Hath slowly work'd her cankering way—
But gloom if gather'd o'er the gate,
Nor there the Fakir's self will wait;
Nor there will wandering Dervise stay,
For bounty cheers not his delay;
Nor there will weary stranger halt

* "Tophaike," musket.—The Bairam is announced by the cannon at sunset ; the illumination of the Mosques, and the firing of all kinds of small arms, loaded with ball, proclaim it during the night.

† Jerreed, or Djerrid, a blunted Turkish javelin, which is darted from horseback with great force and precision. It is a favorite exercise of the Mussulmans.

* The blast of the desert, fatal to everything living, and often alluded to in Eastern poetry.

'o bless the sacred "bread and salt."*
like must Wealth and Poverty
'ass heedless and unheeded by,
'or Courtesy and Pity died
Vith Hassan on the mountain side.
Iis roof, that refuge unto men,
s Desolation's hungry den. [labor,
'he guest flies the hall, and the vassal from
ince his turban was cleft by the Infidel's
sabre!†

. . . . .

I hear the sound of coming feet,
ut not a voice mine ear to greet;
lore near—each turban I can scan,
nd silver-sheathed ataghan;‡
'he foremost of the band is seen
n Emir by his garb of green:§
Ho! who art thou?"—"This low salam‖
eplies of Moslem faith I am."—
The burthen ye so gently bear
eems one that claims your utmost care,
nd doubtless holds some precious freight,
ly humble bark would gladly wait."

"Thou speakest sooth; thy skiff unmoor,
nd waft us from the silent shore;
ay, leave the sail still furl'd, and ply
he nearest oar that's scatter'd by,
nd midway to those rocks where sleep
he channell'd waters dark and deep.
est from your task—so—bravely done,
ur course has been right swiftly run,
et 'tis the longest voyage, I trow,
hat one of——"

. . . . .

Sullen it plunged, and slowly sank,
he calm wave rippled to the bank;
watch'd it as it sank, methought
ome motion from the current caught
estirr'd it more—'twas but the beam
hat chequer'd o'er the living stream:
gazed, till vanishing from view,
ike lessening pebble it withdrew,
till less and less, a speck of white
hat gemm'd the tide, then mock'd the sight:
nd all its hidden secrets sleep,
nown but to Genii of the deep,
hich, trembling in their coral caves,
They dare not whisper to the waves.

. . . . .

As rising on its purple wing
The insect queen of eastern spring,*
O'er the emerald meadows of Kashmeer
Invites the young pursuer near,
And leads him on from flower to flower,
A weary chase and wasted hour;
Then leaves him, as it soars on high,
With panting heart and tearful eye:
So Beauty lures the full-grown child,
With hue as bright, and wing as wild;
A chase of idle hopes and fears,
Begun in folly, closed in tears.
If won, to equal ills betray'd,
Woe waits the insect and the maid;
A life of pain, the loss of peace,
From infant's play and man's caprice:
The lovely toy so fiercely sought,
Hath lost its charm by being caught,
For every touch that woo'd its stay
Hath brush'd its brightest hues away,
Till charm, and hue, and beauty gone,
'Tis left to fly or fall alone.
With wounded wing, or bleeding breast,
Ah! where shall either victim rest?
Can this with faded pinion soar
From rose to tulip as before?
Or Beauty, blighted in an hour,
Find joy within her broken bower?
No: gayer insects fluttering by
Ne'er droop the wing o'er those that die,
And lovelier things have mercy shown
To every failing but their own,
And every woe a tear can claim
Except an erring sister's shame.

. . . . .

The Mind, that broods o'er guilty woes,
Is like the scorpion girt by fire,
In circle narrowing as it glows,
The flames around their captive close,
Till inly search'd by thousand throes,
And maddening in her ire,
One sad and sole relief she knows,
The sting she nourish'd for her foes,
Whose venom never yet was vain,
Gives but one pang, and cures all pain,
And darts into her desperate brain.—
So do the dark in soul expire,
Or live like Scorpion girt by fire;†
So writhes the mind Remorse has riven,
Unfit for earth, undoom'd for heaven,
Darkness above, despair beneath,
Around it flame, within it death!

. . . . .

* To partake of food, to break bread and salt with ur host, ensures the safety of the guest; even though enemy, his person from that moment is sacred.

† I need hardly observe, that Charity and Hospitality e the first duties enjoined by Mohammed; and to say ith, very generally practised by his disciples. The st praise that can be bestowed on a chief is a panegy- on his bounty; the next, on his valor.

‡ The ataghan, a long dagger worn with pistols in the lt, in a metal scabbard, generally of silver; and, ong the wealthier, gilt, or of gold.

§ Green is the privileged color of the Prophet's nu- rous pretended descendants; with them, as here, ih (the family inheritance) is supposed to supersede e necessity of good works; they are the worst of a ry indifferent brood.

‖ "Salam aleikoum! aleikoum salam!"—"Peace be th you; be with you peace"—the salutation reserved the faithful; to a Christian, "Uriarula!"—"A good rney"; or "Saban hiresem, saban scrula!"—"Good rn, good even"; and sometimes, "May your end be ppy," are the usual salutes.

* The blue-winged butterfly of Kashmeer, the most rare and beautiful of the species.

† Alluding to the dubious suicide of the scorpion, so placed for experiment by gentle philosophers. Some maintain that the position of the sting, when turned toward the head, is merely a convulsive movement; but others have actually brought in the verdict "Felo de se." The scorpions are surely interested in a speedy decision of the question; as, if once fairly established as insect Catos, they will probably be allowed to live as long as they think proper, without being martyred for the sake of a hypothesis.

Black Hassan from the Haram flies,
Nor bends on woman's form his eyes;
The unwonted chase each hour employs,
Yet shares he not the hunter's joys,
Not thus was Hassan wont to fly
When Leila dwelt in his Serai.
Doth Leila there no longer dwell?
That tale can only Hassan tell:
Strange rumors in our city say
Upon that eve she fled away
When Rhamazan's last sun was set,*
And flashing from each minaret
Millions of lamps proclaim'd the feast
Of Bairam through the boundless East
'Twas then she went as to the bath,
Which Hassan vainly search'd in wrath;
For she was flown her master's rage
In likeness of a Georgian page,
And far beyond the Moslem's power
Had wronged him with the faithless Giaour.
Somewhat of this had Hassan deem'd;
But still so fond, so fair she seem'd,
Too well he trusted to the slave
Whose treachery deserved a grave:
And on that eve had gone to mosque,
And thence to feast in his kiosk.
Such is the tale his Nubians tell,
Who did not watch their charge too well;
But others say, that on that night,
By pale Phingari's trembling light,†
The Giaour upon his jet-black steed
Was seen, but seen alone, to speed
With bloody spur along the shore,
Nor maid nor page behind him bore.

. . . . .

Her eye's dark charm 'twere vain to tell,
But gaze on that of the Gazelle,
It will assist thy fancy well:
As large, as languishingly dark,
But soul beam'd forth in every spark
That darted from beneath the lid,
Bright as the jewel of Giamschid.‡
Yea, *Soul*, and should our Prophet say
That form was nought but breathing clay,
By Allah! I would answer nay;
Though on Al-Sirat's arch§ I stood,
Which totters o'er the fiery flood,
With Paradise within my view,
And all his Houris beckoning through.

Oh! who young Leila's glance could read,
And keep that portion of his creed,
Which saith that woman is but dust,
A soulless toy for tyrant's lust?*
On her might Muftis gaze, and own
That through her eye the immortal shone;
On her fair cheek's unfading hue
The young pomegranate's blossoms strew†
Their bloom in blushes ever new;
Her hair in hyacinthine flow,‡
When left to roll its folds below,
As midst her handmaids in the hall
She stood superior to them all,
Hath swept the marble where her feet
Gleam'd whiter than the mountain sleet,
Ere from the cloud that gave it birth
It fell, and caught one stain of earth.
The cygnet nobly walks the water;
So moved on earth Circassia's daughter,
The loveliest bird of Franguestan!§
As rears her crest the ruffled Swan,
And spurns the waves with wings of pride,
When pass the steps of stranger man
Along the banks that bound her tide;
Thus rose fair Leila's whiter neck:—
Thus arm'd with beauty would she check
Intrusion's glance, till Folly's gaze
Shrunk from the charms it meant to praise.
Thus high and graceful was her gait;
Her heart as tender to her mate;
Her mate—stern Hassan, who was he?
Alas! that name was not for thee!

. . . . .

Stern Hassan hath a journey ta'en
With twenty vassals in his train,
Each arm'd, as best becomes a man,
With arquebuss and ataghan;
The chief before, as deck'd for war,
Bears in his belt the scimitar
Stain'd with the best of Arnaut blood,
When in the pass the rebels stood,
And few return'd to tell the tale
Of what befell in Parne's vale.
The pistols which his girdle bore
Were those that once a pacha wore, [gold.
Which still, though gemm'd and boss'd with
Even robbers tremble to behold.
'Tis said he goes to woo a bride
More true than her who left his side;
The faithless slave that broke her bower,
And, worse than faithless, for a Giaour!

. . . . .

The sun's last rays are on the hill,
And sparkle in the fountain rill,

---

* The cannon at sunset close the Rhamazan.

† Phingari, the moon.

‡ The celebrated fabulous ruby of Sultan Giamschid, the embellisher of Istakhar; from its splendor named Schebgerag, "the torch of night"; also "the cup of the sun," etc. in the first edition, "Giamschid" was written as a word of three syllables; so D'Herbelot has it; but I am told Richardson reduces it to a dissyllable, and writes "Jamshid." I have left in the text the orthography of the one, with the pronunciation of the other.

§ Al-Sirat, the bridge of breath, narrower than the thread of a famished spider, and sharper than the edge of a sword, over which the Mussulmans must skate into Paradise, to which it is the only entrance; but this is not the worst, the river beneath being hell itself, into which, as may be expected, the unskillful and tender of foot contrive to tumble, with a "facilis descensus Averni," not very pleasing in prospect to the next passenger. There is a shorter cut downwards for the Jews and Christians.

* A vulgar error; the Koran allots at least a third of Paradise to well-behaved women; but by far the greater number of Mussulmans interpret the text their own way, and exclude their moieties from heaven. Being enemies to Platonics, they cannot discern "any fitness of things" in the souls of the other sex, conceiving them to be superseded by the Houris.

† An Oriental simile, which may, perhaps, though fairly stolen, be deemed "plus Arabe qu'en Arabie."

‡ Hyacinthine, in Arabic "Sunbul," as common a thought in the Eastern poets as it was among the Greeks.

§ "Franguestan," Circassia.

Whose welcome waters, cool and clear,
Draw blessings from the mountaineer:
Here many a loitering merchant Greek
Finds that repose 'twere vain to seek
In cities lodged too near his lord,
And trembling for his secret hoard—
Here may he rest where none can see,
In crowds a slave, in deserts free;
And with forbidden wine may stain
The bowl a Moslem must not drain.

. . . . . .

The foremost Tartar's in the gap,
Conspicuous by his yellow cap;
The rest in lengthening line the while
Wind slowly through the long defile:
Above, the mountain rears a peak,
Where vultures whet the thirsty beak;
And theirs may be a feast to-night,
Shall tempt them down ere morrow's light;
Beneath, a river's wintry stream
Has shrunk before the summer beam,
And left a channel bleak and bare,
Save shrubs that spring to perish there;
Each side the midway path there lay
Small broken crags of granite grey,
By time, or mountain lightning, riven
From summits clad in mists of heaven;
For where is he that hath beheld
The peak of Liakura unveil'd?

. . . . . .

They reach the grove of pine at last:
"Bismillah! * now the peril's past;
For yonder view the opening plain,
And there we'll prick our steeds amain":
The Chiaus spake, and as he said,
A bullet whistled o'er his head;
The foremost Tartar bites the ground!
Scarce had they time to check the rein,
Swift from their steeds the riders bound;
But three shall never mount again:
Unseen the foes that gave the wound,
The dying ask revenge in vain.
With steel unsheath'd, and carbine bent,
Some o'er their courser's harness leant,
Half shelter'd by the steed;
Some fly behind the nearest rock,
And there await the coming shock,
Nor tamely stand to bleed
Beneath the shaft of foes unseen,
Who dare not quit their craggy screen.
Stern Hassan only from his horse
Disdains to light, and keeps his course,
Till fiery flashes in the van
Proclaim too sure the robber-clan
Have well secured the only way
Could now avail the promised prey;
Then curl'd his very beard with ire,†
And glared his eye with fiercer fire;
"Though far and near the bullets hiss,
I've 'scaped a bloodier hour than this."
And now the foe their covert quit,
And call his vassals to submit;
But Hassan's frown and furious word
Are dreaded more than hostile sword,
Nor of his little band a man
Resign'd carbine or ataghan,
Nor raised the craven cry, Amaun!*
In fuller sight, more near and near,
The lately ambush'd foes appear,
And, issuing from the grove, advance
Some who on battle-charger prance.
Who leads them on with foreign brand,
Far flashing in his red right hand?
"'Tis he! 'tis he! I know him now;
I know him by his pallid brow;
I know him by the evil eye†
That aids his envious treachery;
I know him by his jet-black barb;
Though now array'd in Arnaut garb,
Apostate from his own vile faith,
It shall not save him from the death:
'Tis he! well met in any hour,
Lost Leila's love, accursed Giaour!"

As rolls the river into ocean,
In sable torrent wildly streaming;
As the sea-tide's opposing motion,
In azure column proudly gleaming,
Beats back the current many a rood,
In curling foam and mingling flood,
While eddying whirl, and breaking wave,
Roused by the blasts of winter, rave;
Through sparkling spray, in thundering clash,
The lightnings of the water's flash
In awful whiteness o'er the shore,
That shines and shakes beneath the roar;
Thus—as the stream and ocean greet,
With waves that madden as they meet—
Thus join the bands, whom mutual wrong,
And fate, and fury drive along.
The bickering sabres' shivering jar,
And pealing wide or ringing near
Its echoes on the throbbing ear,
The death-shot hissing from afar;
The shock, the shout, the groan of war,
Reverberate along that vale,
More suited to the shepherd's tale:
Though few the numbers—theirs the strife,
That neither spares nor speaks for life!
Ah! fondly youthful hearts can press,
To seize and share the dear caress;
But Love itself could never pant
For all that Beauty sighs to grant,
With half the fervor Hate bestows
Upon the last embrace of foes,
When grappling in the fight they fold
Those arms that ne'er shall lose their hold:
Friends meet to part; Love laughs at faith;

* Bismillah—"In the name of God"; the commencement of all the chapters of the Koran but one, and of prayer and thanksgiving.

† A phenomenon not uncommon with an angry Musulman. In 1809, the Capitan Pacha's whiskers at a diplomatic audience were no less lively with indignation than a tiger cat's, to the horror of all the dragomans: the portentous mustachios twisted, they stood erect of their own accord, and were expected every moment to change their color, but at last condescended to subside, which, probably, saved more heads than they contained hairs.

* "Amaun," quarter, pardon.

† The "evil eye," a common superstition in the Levant, and of which the imaginary effects are yet very singular on those who conceive themselves affected.

True foes, once met, are join'd till death!

. . . . . .

With sabre shiver'd to the hilt,
Yet dripping with the blood he spilt;
Yet strain'd within the sever'd hand
Which quivers round that faithless brand;
His turban far behind him roll'd,
And cleft in twain its firmest fold;
His flowing robe by falchion torn,
And crimson as those clouds of morn
That, streak'd with dusky red, portend
The day shall have a stormy end;
A stain on every bush that bore
A fragment of his palampore;*
His breast with wounds unnumber'd riven,
His back to earth, his face to heaven,
Fall'n Hassan lies—his unclosed eye
Yet lowering on his enemy,
As if the hour that seal'd his fate
Surviving left his quenchless hate;
And o'er him bends that foe, with brow
As dark as his that bled below.—

. . . . . .

"Yes, Leila sleeps beneath the wave,
But his shall be a redder grave;
Her spirit pointed well the steel
Which taught that felon heart to feel.
He call'd the Prophet, but his power
Was vain against the vengeful Giaour:
He call'd on Alla, but the word
Arose unheeded or unheard.
Thou Paynim fool! could Leila's prayer
Be pass'd and thine accorded there?
I watch'd my time, I leagued with these,
The traitor in his turn to seize;
My wrath is wreak'd, the deed is done,
And now I go—but go alone."

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

The browsing camels' bells are tinkling,
His Mother look'd from her lattice high—
She saw the dews of eve besprinkling
The pasture green beneath her eye,
She saw the planets faintly twinkling:
"'Tis twilight—sure his train is nigh."
She could not rest in the garden-bower,
But gazed through the gate of his steepest tower:
"Why comes he not? his steeds are fleet,
Nor shrink they from the summer heat; [gift?
Why sends not the Bridegroom his promised
Is his heart more cold, or his barb less swift?
Oh, false reproach! yon Tartar now
Has gain'd our nearest mountain's brow,
And warily the steep descends,
And now within the valley bends;
And he bears the gift at his saddle-bow—
How could I deem his courser slow?
Right well my largess shall repay
His welcome speed and weary way."

The Tartar lighted at the gate,
But scarce upheld his fainting weight;
His swarthy visage spake distress,

* The flowered shawls generally worn by persons of rank.

But this might be from weariness;
His garb with sanguine spots was dyed,
But these might be from his courser's side:
He drew the token from his vest—
Angel of Death! 'tis Hassan's cloven crest!
His calpac* rent—his caftan red—
"Lady, a fearful bride thy Son hath wed:
Me, not from mercy, did they spare,
But this empurpled pledge to bear.
Peace to the brave! whose blood is spilt:
Woe to the Giaour! for his the guilt."

. . . . . .

A turban carved in coarsest stone,†
A pillar with rank weeds o'ergrown,
Whereon can now be scarcely read
The Koran verse that mourns the dead,
Point out the spot where Hassan fell
A victim in that lonely dell.
There sleeps as true an Osmanlie
As e'er at Mecca bent the knee:
As ever scorn'd forbidden wine,
Or pray'd with face towards the shrine,
In orisons resumed anew
At solemn sound of "Alla Hu!"‡
Yet died he by a stranger's hand,
And stranger in his native land;
Yet died he as in arms he stood,
And unavenged, at least in blood.
But him the maids of Paradise
Impatient to their halls invite,
And the dark heaven of Houris' eyes
On him shall glance forever bright;
They come—their kerchiefs green they wave,§
And welcome with a kiss the brave!
Who falls in battle 'gainst a Giaour
Is worthiest an immortal bower.

. . . . . .

But thou, false Infidel! shalt writhe
Beneath avenging Monkir's scythe;‖
And from its torment 'scape alone
To wander round lost Eblis' throne;¶
And fire unquench'd, unquenchable,

* The calpac is the solid cap or centre part of the head-dress; the shawl is wound around it, and forms the turban.

† The turban, pillar, and inscriptive verse, decorate the tombs of the Osmanlies, whether in the cemetery or in the wilderness. In the mountains you frequently pass similar mementoes; and on inquiry you are informed that they record some victim of rebellion, plunder, or revenge.

‡ "Alla Hu!" the concluding words of the Muezzin's call to prayer from the highest gallery on the exterior of the minaret. On a still evening, when the Muezzin has a fine voice, which is frequently the case, the effect is solemn and beautiful beyond all the bells in Christendom.

§ The following is part of a battle-song of the Turks:—"I see—I see a dark-eyed girl of Paradise, and she waves a handkerchief, a kerchief of green; and cries aloud, 'Come, kiss me, for I love thee.'"

‖ Monkir and Nekir are the inquisitors of the dead, before whom the corpse undergoes a slight novitiate and preparatory training for damnation. If the answers are none of the clearest he is hauled up with a scythe and thumped down with a red-hot mace till properly seasoned, with a variety of subsidiary probations. The office of these angels is no sinecure; there are but two, and the number of orthodox deceased being in a small proportion to the remainder, their hands are always full. Consult Sale's "Koran."

¶ Eblis, the Oriental Prince of Darkness.

Around, within, thy heart shall dwell ;
Nor ear can hear nor tongue can tell
The tortures of that inward hell !
But first, on earth as Vampire sent,*
Thy corpse shall from its tomb be rent :
Then ghastly haunt thy native place,
And suck the blood of all thy race :
There from thy daughter, sister, wife,
At midnight drain the stream of life ;
Yet loathe the banquet which perforce
Must feed thy livid living corse :
Thy victims, ere they yet expire,
Shall know the demon for their sire,
As cursing thee, thou cursing them,
Thy flowers are wither'd on the stem.
But one that for thy crime must fall,
The youngest, most beloved of all,
Shall bless thee with a *father's* name—
That word shall wrap thy heart in flame !
Yet must thou end thy task, and mark
Her cheeks last tinge, her eye's last spark,
And the last glassy glance must view
Which freezes o'er its lifeless blue ;
Then with unhallow'd hand shall tear
The tresses of her yellow hair,
Of which in life a lock when shorn
Affection's fondest pledge was worn,
But now is borne away by thee,
Memorial of thine agony !
Yet with thine own best blood shall drip†
Thy gnashing tooth and haggard lip ;
Then stalking to thy sullen grave,
Go—and with Ghouls and Afrits rave ;
Till these in horror shrink away
From spectre more accursed than they !

. . . . .

How name ye yon lone Caloyer?
His features I have scann'd before
In mine own land : 'tis many a year,
Since, dashing by the lonely shore,
I saw him urge as fleet a steed
As ever served a horseman's need.
But once I saw that face, yet then
It was so mark'd with inward pain,
I could not pass it by again ;
It breathes the same dark spirit now,
As death were stamped upon his brow."

"'Tis twice three years at summer tide
Since first among our freres he came ;
And here it soothes him to abide
For some dark deed he will not name.
But never at our vesper prayer,
Nor e'er before confession chair,
Kneels he, nor recks he when arise
Incense or anthem to the skies,
But broods within his cell alone,
His faith and race alike unknown.
The sea from Paynim land he crost,
And here ascended from the coast ;
Yet seems he not of Othman race,
But only Christian in his face :
I'd judge him some stray renegade,
Repentant of the change he made,
Save that he shuns our holy shrine,
Nor tastes the sacred bread and wine.
Great largess to these walls he brought,
And thus our abbot's favor bought ;
But were I prior, not a day
Should brook such stranger's further stay,
Or pent within our penance cell
Should doom him there for aye to dwell.
Much in his visions mutters he
Of maiden whelm'd beneath the sea :
Of sabres clashing, foemen flying,
Wrongs avenged, and Moslem dying.
On cliff he hath been known to stand,
And rave as to some bloody hand,
Fresh sever'd from its parent limb,
Invisible to all but him,
Which beckons onward to his grave,
And lures to leap into the wave."

. . . . . .

Dark and unearthly is the scowl
That glares beneath his dusky cowl :
The flash of that dilating eye
Reveals too much of times gone by ;
Though varying, indistinct its hue,
Oft will his glance the gazer rue.
For in it lurks that nameless spell,
Which speaks, itself unspeakable,
A spirit yet unquell'd and high,
That claims and keeps ascendancy ;
And like the bird whose pinions quake,
But cannot fly the gazing snake,
Will others quail beneath his look,
Nor 'scape the glance they scarce can brook.
From him the half-affrighted Friar
When met alone would fain retire,
As if that high and bitter smile
Transferr'd to others fear and guile :
Not oft to smile descendeth he,
And when he doth, 'tis sad to see
That he but mocks at Misery.
How that pale lip will curl and quiver !
Then fix once more as if forever ;
As if his sorrow or disdain
Forbade him e'er to smile again.
Well were it so—such ghastly mirth,
From joyaunce ne'er derived its birth.
But sadder still it were to trace
What once were feelings in that face :
Time hath not yet the features fix'd,
But brighter traits with evil mix'd ;
And there are hues not always faded,
Which speak a mind not all degraded,
Even by the crimes through which it waded :
The common crowd but see the gloom

* The Vampire superstition is still general in the Le-ut. Honest Tournefort tells a long story, which Mr. uthey, in his notes on "Thalaba," quotes, about these Vroucolochas,' as he calls them. The Romaic term is, Vardoulacha." I recollect a whole family being terri-ed by the scream of a child, which they imagined ust proceed from such a visitation. The Greeks never ention the word without horror. I find that "Brou-lokas" is an old legitimate Hellenic appellation at ast is so applied to Arsenius, who, according to the reeks, was after his death animated by the devil. The oderns, however, use the word I mention.

† The freshness of the face, and the wetness of the lip th blood, are the never-failing signs of a Vampire. e stories told in Hungary and Greece of these foul -ders are singular, and some of them most incredibly tested.

Of wayward deeds, and fitting doom;
The close observer can espy
A noble soul, and lineage high:
Alas! though both bestow'd in vain,
Which Grief could change, and Guilt could stain,
It was no vulgar tenement
To which such lofty gifts were lent,
And still with little less than dread
On such the sight is riveted.
The roofless cot, decay'd and rent,
Will scarce delay the passer-by;
The tower by war or tempest bent,
While yet may frown one battlement,
Demands and daunts the stranger's eye;
Each ivied arch, and pillar lone,
Pleads haughtily for glories gone!

"His floating robe around him folding,
Slow weeps he through the column'd aisle,
With dread beheld, with gloom beholding
The rites that sanctify the pile.
But when the anthem shakes the choir,
And kneel the monks, his steps retire;
By yonder lone and wavering torch
His aspect glares within the porch;
There will he pause till all is done—
And hear the prayer, but utter none.
See—by the half-illumined wall
His hood fly back, his dark hair fall,
That pale brow wildly wreathing round,
As if the Gorgon there had bound
The sablest of the serpent-braid
That o'er her fearful forehead stray'd;
For he declines the convent oath,
And leaves those locks' unhallow'd growth,
But wears our garb in all beside;
And, not from piety, but pride,
Gives wealth to walls that never heard
Of his one holy vow nor word.
Lo!—mark ye, as the harmony
Peals louder praises to the sky,
That livid cheek, that stony air
Of mix'd defiance and despair!
Saint Francis, keep him from the shrine!
Else may we dread the wrath divine
Made manifest by awful sign.
If ever evil angel bore
The form of mortal, such he wore:
By all my hope of sins forgiven,
Such looks are not of earth nor heaven!"

To love the softest hearts are prone,
But such can ne'er be all his own;
Too timid in his woes to share,
Too meek to meet or brave despair;
And sterner hearts alone may feel
The wound that time can never heal.
The rugged metal of the mine
Must burn before its surface shine,
But plunged within the furnace-flame,
It bends and melts—though still the same;
Then, temper'd to thy want, or will,
'Twill serve thee to defend or kill;
A breastplate for thine hour of need,
Or blade to bid thy foeman bleed;
But if a dagger's form it bear,
Let those who shape its edge beware!
Thus passion's fire, and woman's art,
Can turn and tame the sterner heart;
From these its form and tone are ta'en,
And what they make it, must remain,
But break—before it bend again.

. . . . .

If solitude succeed to grief,
Release from pain is slight relief;
The vacant bosom's wilderness
Might thank the pang that made it less.
We loathe what none are left to share:
Even bliss—'twere woe alone to bear;
The heart once left thus desolate
Must fly at last for ease—to hate.
It is as if the dead could feel
The icy worm around them steal,
And shudder, as the reptile creep
To revel o'er their rotting sleep,
Without the power to scare away
The cold consumers of their clay
It is as if the desert-bird,*
Whose beak unlocks her bosom's stream
To still her famish'd nestlings' scream,
Nor mourns a life to them transferr'd,
Should rend her rash devoted breast,
And find them flown her empty nest.
The keenest pangs the wretched find
Are rapture to the dreary void,
The leafless desert of the mind,
The waste of feelings unemploy'd.
Who would be doom'd to gaze upon
A sky without a cloud or sun?
Less hideous far the tempest's roar
Than ne'er to brave the billows more—
Thrown, when the war of winds is o'er,
A lonely wreck on fortune's shore,
'Mid sullen calm, and silent bay,
Unseen to drop by dull decay;—
Better to sink beneath the shock
Than moulder piecemeal on the rock!

. . . . .

"Father! thy days have pass'd in peace
'Mid counted beads, and countless prayer
To bid the sins of others cease,
Thyself without a crime or care,
Save transient ills that all must bear,
Has been thy lot from youth to age;
And thou wilt bless thee from the rage
Of passions fierce and uncontroll'd,
Such as thy penitents unfold,
Whose secret sins and sorrows rest
Within thy pure and pitying breast.
My days, though few, have pass'd below
In much of joy, but more of woe;
Yet still, in hours of love or strife,
I've 'scaped the weariness of life:
Now leagued with friends, now girt by foes,
I loathed the languor of repose.
Now nothing left to love or hate,
No more with hope or pride elate,
I'd rather be the thing that crawls
Most noxious o'er a dungeon's walls,

* The pelican is, I believe, the bird so libelled, by the imputation of feeding her chickens with her blood.

Than pass my dull, unvarying days,
Condemn'd to meditate and gaze.
Yet lurks a wish within my breast
For rest—but not to feel 'tis rest.
Soon shall my fate that wish fulfil:
And I shall sleep without the dream
Of what I was and would be still,
Dark as to thee my deeds may seem:
My memory now is but the tomb
Of joys long dead; my hope, their doom:
Though better to have died with those
Than bear a life of lingering woes.
My spirit shrunk not to sustain
The searching throes of ceaseless pain;
Nor sought the self-accorded grave
Of ancient fool and modern knave;
Yet death I have not fear'd to meet;
And in the field it had been sweet,
Had danger woo'd me on to move
The slave of glory, not of love.
I've braved it, not for honor's boast;
I smile at laurels won or lost;
To such let others carve their way,
For high renown, or hireling pay:
But place again before my eyes
Aught that I deem a worthy prize—
The maid I love, the man I hate—
And I will hunt the steps of fate,
To save or slay, as these require,
Through rending steel and rolling fire:
Nor need'st thou doubt this speech from one
Who would but do—what he *hath* done.
Death is but what the haughty brave,
The weak must bear, the wretch must crave;
Then let life go to Him who gave;
I have not quail'd to danger's brow
When high and happy—need I *now?*

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

"I loved her, Friar! nay, adored—
But these are words that all can use—
I proved it more in deed than word;
There's blood upon that dinted sword,
A stain its steel can never lose:
'Twas shed for her who died for me,
It warm'd the heart of one abhorr'd:
Nay, start not—no—nor bend thy knee,
Nor 'midst my sins such act record:
Thou wilt absolve me from the deed,
For he was hostile to thy creed!
The very name of Nazarene
Was wormwood to his Paynim spleen.
Ungrateful fool! since but for brands
Well wielded in some hardy hands,
And wounds by Galileans given,
The surest pass to Turkish heaven,
For him his Houris still might wait
Impatient at the Prophet's gate.
I loved her—love will find its way [prey;
Through paths where wolves would fear to
And if he dares enough, 'twere hard
If passion met not some reward—
No matter how, or where, or why,
I did not vainly seek, nor sigh:
Yet sometimes, with remorse, in vain
I wish she had not loved again.
She died—I dare not tell thee how:
But look—'tis written on my brow!
There read of Cain the curse and crime,
In characters unworn by time:
Still, ere thou dost condemn me, pause;
Not mine the act, though I the cause.
Yet did he but what I had done
Had she been false to more than one.
Faithless to him, he gave the blow;
But true to me, I laid him low:
Howe'er deserved her doom might be,
Her treachery was truth to me;
To me she gave her heart, that all
Which tyranny can ne'er enthrall;
And I, alas! too late to save!
Yet all I then could give, I gave,
'Twas some relief, our foe a grave.
His death sits lightly; but her fate
Has made me—what thou well may'st hate.
His doom was seal'd—he knew it well,
Warn'd by the voice of stern Tahcer
Deep in whose darkly-boding ear*
The death-shot peal'd of murder near

* This superstition of a second-hearing (for I never met with downright second-sight in the East) fell once under my own observation. On my third journey to Cape Colonna, early in 1811, as we passed through the defile that leads from the hamlet between Keratia and Colonna, I observed Dervish Tahiri riding rather out of the path, and leaning his head upon his hand, as if in pain. I rode up and inquired. "We are in peril," he answered. "What peril? We are not now in Albania, nor in the passes to Ephesus, Messalunghi, or Lepanto; there are plenty of us, well armed, and the Choriates have not courage to be thieves." "True, Affendi, but nevertheless the shot is ringing in my ears." "The shot! not a tophaike has been fired this morning." "I hear it, notwithstanding—Bom—Bom—as plainly as I hear your voice." "Psha!" "As you please, Affendi; if it is written, so will it be." I left this quick-eared predestinarian, and rode up to Basili, his Christian compatriot, whose ears, though not at all prophetic, by no means relished the intelligence. We all arrived at Colonna, remained some hours, and returned leisurely, saying a variety of brilliant things, in more languages than spoiled the building of Babel, upon the mistaken seer. Romaic, Arnaut, Turkish, Italian, and English were all exercised, in various conceits, upon the unfortunate Mussulman. While we were contemplating the beautiful prospect, Dervish was occupied about the columns. I thought he was deranged into an antiquarian, and asked him if he had become a "Palaocastro" man? "No," said he, "but these pillars will be useful in making a stand"; and added other remarks which at least evinced his own belief in his troublesome faculty of fore-hearing. On our return to Athens we heard from Leone (a prisoner set ashore some days after) of the intended attack of the Mainotes, mentioned, with the cause of its not taking place, in the notes to "Childe Harold," Canto II. I was at some pains to question the man, and he described the dresses, arms, and marks of the horses of our party so accurately that, with other circumstances, we could not doubt of his being in "villainous company," and ourselves in a bad neighborhood. Dervish became a sooth-sayer for life, and I dare say he is now hearing more musketry than ever will be fired, to the great refreshment of the Arnauts of Berat, and his native mountains. I shall mention one trait more of this singular race. In March, 1811, a remarkably stout and active Arnaut came (I believe the fiftieth on the same errand) to offer himself as an attendant, which was declined. "Well, Affendi," quoth he, "may you live!—you would have found me useful. I shall leave the town for the hills to-morrow; in the winter I return; perhaps you will then receive me." Dervish, who was present, remarked, as a thing of course, and of no consequence, "In the mean time he will join the Klephtes" (robbers), which was true to the letter. If not cut off, they come down in the winter and pass it unmolested in some town, where they are often as well known as their exploits.

As filed the troop to where they fell!
He died too in the battle broil,
A time that heeds nor pain nor toil;
One cry to Mahomet for aid,
One prayer to Alla all he made:
He knew and cross'd me in the fray—
I gazed upon him where he lay,
And watch'd his spirit ebb away:
Though pierced like pard by hunter's steel,
He felt not half that now I feel.
I search'd, but vainly search'd, to find
The workings of the wounded mind;
Each feature of that sullen corse
Betray'd his rage, but no remorse.
Oh, what had Vengeance given to trace
Despair upon his dying face!
The late repentance of that hour,
When Penitence hath lost her power
To tear one terror from the grave,
And will not soothe, and cannot save.

. . . . .

"The cold in clime are cold in blood,
Their love can scarce deserve the name;
But mine was like the lava flood,
That boils in Ætna's breast of flame.
I cannot prate in puling strain
Of ladye-love, and beauty's chain:
If changing cheek, and scorching vein,
Lips taught to writhe, but not complain,
If bursting heart, and madd'ning brain,
And daring deed, and vengeful steel,
And all that I have felt and feel,
Betoken love—that love was mine,
And shown by many a bitter sign.
'Tis true, I could not whine nor sigh,
I knew but to obtain or die.
I die—but first, I have possess'd,
And come what may, *I have been* bless'd.
Shall I the doom I sought upbraid?
No—reft of all, yet undismay'd,
But for the thought of Leila slain,
Give me the pleasure with the pain,
So would I live and love again.
I grieve—but not, my holy guide!
For him who dies, but her who died:
She sleeps beneath the wandering wave—
Ah! had she but an earthly grave,
This breaking heart and throbbing head
Should seek and share her narrow bed.
She was a form of life and light,
That, seen, became a part of sight;
And rose, where'er I turn'd my eye,
The morning-star of Memory!

"Yes, Love indeed is light from heaven;
A spark of that immortal fire
With angels shared, by Alla given
To lift from earth our low desire.
Devotion wafts the mind above,
But Heaven itself descends in love;
A feeling from the Godhead caught,
To wean from self each sordid thought;
A Ray of Him who form'd the whole;
A Glory circling round the soul!
I grant *my* love imperfect, all
That mortals by the name miscall;
Then deem it evil, what thou wilt,
But say, oh say, *hers* was not guilt!
She was my life's unerring light:
That quench'd, what beam shall break my night?
Oh! would it shone to lead me still,
Although to death or deadliest ill!
Why marvel ye, if they who lose
This present joy, this future hope,
No more with sorrow meekly cope;
In frenzy then their fate accuse;
In madness do those fearful deeds
That seem to add but guilt to woe?
Alas! the breast that inly bleeds
Hath nought to dread from outward blow:
Who falls from all he knows of bliss,
Cares little into what abyss.
Fierce as the gloomy vulture's now
To thee, old man, my deeds appear:
I read abhorrence on thy brow
And this too was I born to bear!
'Tis true, that, like that bird of prey,
With havoc have I mark'd my way:
But this was taught me by the dove,
To die—and know no second love.
This lesson yet hath man to learn,
Taught by the thing he dares to spurn:
The bird that sings within the brake,
The swan that swims upon the lake,
One mate, and one alone, will take.
And let the fool still prone to range,
And sneer on all who cannot change,
Partake his jest with boasting boys;
I envy not his varied joys,
But deem such feeble, heartless man,
Less than yon solitary swan;
Far, far beneath the shallow maid
He left believing and betray'd.
Such shame at least was never mine—
Leila! each thought was only thine!
My good, my guilt, my weal, my woe,
My hope on high—my all below.
Earth holds no other like to thee,
Or, if it doth, in vain for me:
For worlds I dare not view the dame
Resembling thee, yet not the same.
The very crimes that mar my youth,
This bed of death—attest my truth!
'Tis all too late—thou wert, thou art
The cherish'd madness of my heart!

"And she was lost—and yet I breathed,
But not the breath of human life;
A serpent round my heart was wreathed,
And stung my every thought to strife.
Alike all time, abhorr'd all place,
Shuddering, I shrank from Nature's face,
Where every hue that charm'd before,
The blackness of my bosom wore.
The rest thou dost already know,
And all my sins, and half my woe.
But talk no more of penitence;
Thou seest I soon shall part from hence:
And if thy holy tale were true,
The deed that's done, canst *thou* undo?
Think me not thankless—but this grief

Looks not to priesthood for relief.*
My soul's estate in secret guess:
But wouldst thou pity more, say less.
When thou canst bid my Leila live,
Then will I sue thee to forgive;
Then plead my cause in that high place
Where purchased masses proffer grace.
Go, when the hunter's hand hath wrung
From forest-cave her shrieking young,
And calm the lonely lioness:
But soothe not—mock not *my* distress!

"In earlier days, and calmer hours,
When heart with heart delights to blend,
Where bloom my native valley's bowers,
I had—ah! have I now?—a friend!
To him this pledge I charge thee send,
Memorial of a youthful vow:
I would remind him of my end:
Though souls absorb'd like mind allow
Brief thought to distant friendship's claim,
Yet dear to him my blighted name.
'Tis strange—he prophesied my doom,
And I have smiled—I then could smile—
When Prudence would his voice assume,
And warn—I reck'd not what—the while:
But now remembrance whispers o'er
Those accents scarcely marked before.
Say—that his bodings came to pass,
And he will start to hear their truth,
And wish his words had not been sooth:
Tell him, unheeding as I was,
Through many a busy bitter scene
Of all our golden youth had been,
In pain, my faltering tongue had tried
To bless his memory ere I died;
But Heaven in wrath would turn away,
If Guilt should for the guiltless pray.
I do not ask him not to blame,
Too gentle he to wound my name;
And what have I to do with fame?
I do not ask him not to mourn,
Such cold request might sound like scorn;
And what than friendship's manly tear
May better grace a brother's bier?
But bear this ring, his own of old,
And tell him—what thou dost behold!
The wither'd frame, the ruin'd mind,
The wrack by passion left behind,
A shrivell'd scroll, a scatter'd leaf
Sear'd by the autumn blast of grief!

. . . . .

"Tell me no more of fancy's gleam;
No, father, no, 'twas not a dream:
Alas! the dreamer first must sleep,
I only watch'd and wish'd to weep,
But could not, for my burning brow
Throbb'd to the very brain as now;
I wish'd but for a single tear,
As something welcome, new, and dear:
I wish'd it then, I wish it still;
Despair is stronger than my will.
Waste not thine orison, despair
Is mightier than thy pious prayer:
I would not, if I might, be blest;
I want no paradise, but rest.
'Twas then, I tell ye, father! then
I saw her; yes, she lived again;
And shining in her white symar,*
As through yon pale grey cloud the star
Which now I gaze on, as on her,
Who look'd, and looks far lovelier;
Dimly I view its trembling spark;
To-morrow's night shall be more dark;
And I, before its rays appear,
That lifeless thing the living fear.
I wander, father! for my soul
Is fleeting towards the final goal.
I saw her, friar! and I rose
Forgetful of our former woes;
And rushing from my couch, I dart,
And clasp her to my desperate heart;
I clasp—what is it that I clasp?
No breathing form within my clasp,
No heart that beats reply to mine—
Yet, Leila! yet the form is thine!
And art thou, dearest, changed so much,
As meet my eye, yet mock my touch?
Ah! were thy beauties e'er so cold,
I care not; so my arms enfold
The all they ever wish'd to hold.
Alas! around the shadow prest,
They shrink upon my lonely breast!
Yet still 'tis there! In silence stands,
And beckons with beseeching hands!
With braided hair, and bright-black eye—
I knew 'twas false—she could not die!
But he is dead! within the dell
I saw him buried where he fell;
He comes not, for he cannot break
From earth; why then art thou awake?
They told me wild waves roll'd above
The face I view, the form I love!
They told me—'twas a hideous tale!—
I'd tell it, but my tongue would fail:
If true, and from thine ocean-cave
Thou com'st to claim a calmer grave,
Oh, pass thy dewy fingers o'er
This brow, that then will burn no more;
Or place them on my hopeless heart:
But, shape or shade! whate'er thou art,
In mercy ne'er again depart!
Or farther with thee bear my soul
Than winds can waft or waters roll!

. . . . .

. . . . .

"Such is my name, and such my tale.
Confessor! to thy secret ear
I breathe the sorrow I bewail,
And thank thee for the generous tear
This glazing eye could never shed.
Then lay me with the humblest dead;
And, save the cross above my head,
Be neither name nor emblem spread,

* The monk's sermon is omitted. It seems to have had so little effect upon the patient, that it could have no hopes from the reader. It may be sufficient to say, that it was of a customary length (as may be perceived from the interruptions and uneasiness of the patient), and was delivered in the usual tone of all orthodox preachers.

* "Symar," a shroud.

By prying stranger to be read,
Or stay the passing pilgrim's tread."

He pass'd—nor of his name and race
Hath left a token or a trace,
Save what the father must not say
Who shrived him on his dying day:
This broken tale was all he knew
Of her he loved, or him he slew.*

* The circumstance to which the above story relates, was not very uncommon in Turkey. A few years ago, the wife of Muchtar Pacha complained to his father of his son's supposed infidelity: he asked with whom, and she had the barbarity to give in a list of the twelve handsomest women in Yanina. They were seized, fastened up in sacks, and drowned in the lake the same night! One of the guards who was present informed me, that not one of the victims uttered a cry, or showed a symptom of terror, at so sudden a "wrench from all we know, from all we love." The fate of Phrosine, the fairest of this sacrifice, is the subject of many a Romaic and Arnaut ditty. The story in the text is one told of a young Venetian many years ago, and now nearly forgotten. I heard it by accident recited by one of the coffee-house story-tellers who abound in the Levant, and sing or recite their narratives. The additions and interpolations by the translator will be easily distinguished from the rest, by the want of Eastern imagery; and I regret that my memory has retained so few fragments of the original. For the contents of some of the notes, I am indebted partly to D'Herbelot, and partly to that most Eastern, and, as Mr. Weber justly entitles it, "sublime tale," the "Caliph Vathek." I do not know from what source the author of that singular volume may have drawn his materials: some of his incidents are to be found in the "Bibliotheque Orientale"; but for the correctness of costume, beauty of description, and power of imagination, it far surpasses all European imitations; and bears such marks of originality, that those who have visited the East will find some difficulty in believing it to be more than a translation. As an Eastern tale, even Rasselas must bow before it; his "Happy Valley" will not bear a comparison with the "Hall of Eblis."

THE BRIDE OF ABYDOS:

A TURKISH TALE.

"Had we never loved so kindly,
Had we never loved so blindly,
Never met or never parted,
We had ne'er been broken-hearted."—BURNS.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD HOLLAND

THIS TALE IS INSCRIBED,

WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF REGARD AND RESPECT,

BY HIS GRATEFULLY OBLIGED AND

SINCERE FRIEND,

BYRON.

1813.

CANTO THE FIRST.

I.

Know ye the land where the cypress and myrtle
Are emblems of deeds that are done in their clime?
Where the rage of the vulture, the love of the turtle,
Now melt into sorrow, now madden to crime!
Know ye the land of the cedar and vine,
Where the flowers ever blossom, the beams ever shine;
Where the light wings of Zephyr, oppress'd with perfume,
Wax faint o'er the gardens of Gúl in her bloom;*
Where the citron and olive are fairest of fruit,
And the voice of the nightingale never is mute:
Where the tints of the earth, and the hues of the sky,
In color though varied, in beauty may vie,
And the purple of ocean is deepest in dye;
Where the virgins are soft as the roses they twine,
And all, save the spirit of man, is divine?
'Tis the clime of the East; 'tis the land of the Sun—
Can he smile on such deeds as his children have done?†

Oh! wild as the accents of lovers' farewell,
Are the hearts which they bear, and the tales which they tell.

II.

Begirt with many a gallant slave,
Apparell'd as becomes the brave,
Awaiting each his lord's behest,
To guide his steps, or guard his rest,
Old Giaffir sate in his divan:
Deep thought was in his aged eye;
And though the face of Mussulman
Not oft betrays to standers by
The mind within, well skill'd to hide
All but unconquerable pride,
His pensive cheek and pondering brow
Did more than he was wont avow.

III.

"Let the chamber be clear'd."—The train disappear'd—
"Now call me the chief of the Haram guard."
With Giaffir is none but his only son,
And the Nubian awaiting the sire's award.
"Haroun—when all the crowd that wait
Are pass'd beyond the outer gate,

* "Gul," the rose.

† "Souls made of fire, and children of the Sun,
With whom revenge is virtue."
YOUNG'S "Revenge."

(Woe to the head whose eye beheld
My child Zuleika's face unveil'd!)
Hence, lead my daughter from her tower;
Her fate is fix'd this very hour:
Yet not to her repeat my thought;
By me alone be duty taught!"

"Pacha! to hear is to obey."
No more must slave to despot say—
Then to the tower had ta'en his way.
But here young Selim silence brake,
First lowly rendering reverence meet;
And downcast look'd, and gently spake,
Still standing at the Pacha's feet:
For son of Moslem must expire,
Ere dare to sit before his sire!

"Father! for fear that thou shouldst chide
My sister, or her sable guide,
Know—for the fault, if fault there be,
Was mine, then fall thy frowns on me—
So lovelily the morning shone,
That—let the old and weary sleep—
I could not; and to view alone
The fairest scenes of land and deep,
With none to listen and reply
To thoughts with which my heart beat high,
Were irksome: for whate'er my mood,
In sooth I love not solitude:
I on Zuleika's slumber broke,
And, as thou knowest that for me
Soon turns the Haram's grating key,
Before the guardian slaves awoke,
We to the cypress groves had flown,
And made earth, main, and heaven our own!
There lingered we, beguiled too long
With Mejnoun's tale, or Sadi's song;*
Till I, who heard the deep tambour†
Beat thy Divan's approaching hour
To thee, and to my duty true,
Warn'd by the sound, to greet thee flew:
But there Zuleika wanders yet—
Nay, Father, rage not—nor forget
That none can pierce that sacred bower
But those who watch the women's tower."

IV.

"Son of a slave!"—the Pacha said—
"From unbelieving mother bred,
Vain were a father's hope to see
Aught that beseems a man in thee.
Thou, when thine arm should bend the bow,
And hurl the dart, and curb the steed,
Thou, Greek in soul if not in creed,
Must pore where babbling waters flow,
And watch unfolding roses blow.
Would that yon orb, whose matin glow
Thy listless eyes so much admire,
Would lend thee something of its fire!
Thou, who wouldst see this battlement
By Christian cannon piecemeal rent;
Nay, tamely view old Stamboul's wall
Before the dogs of Moscow fall,
Nor strike one stroke for life and death
Against the curs of Nazareth!
Go—let thy less than woman's hand
Assume the distaff—not the brand.
But Haroun! to my daughter speed!
And hark—of thine own head take heed—
If thus Zuleika oft takes wing—
Thou seest yon bow—it hath a string!"

V.

No sound from Selim's lips was heard,
At least that met old Giaffir's ear;
But every frown and every word
Pierced keener than a Christian's sword.
"Son of a slave!"—reproach'd with fear!
Those gibes had cost another dear.
"Son of a slave!—and *who* my sire?"
Thus held his thoughts their dark career;
And glances ev'n of more than ire
Flash forth, then faintly disappear.
Old Giaffir gazed upon his son,
And started; for within his eye
He read how much his wrath had done.
He saw rebellion there begun:
"Come hither, boy—what! no reply?
I mark thee—and I know thee too;
But there be deeds thou dar'st not do:
But if thy beard had manlier length,
And if thy hand had skill and strength,
I'd joy to see thee break a lance,
Albeit against my own perchance."

As sneeringly these accents fell,
On Selim's eye he fiercely gazed;
That eye return'd him glance for glance,
And proudly to his sire's was raised,
Till Giaffir's quail'd and shrunk askance—
And why—he felt, but durst not tell.
"Much I misdoubt this wayward boy
Will one day work me more annoy;
I never loved him from his birth,
And—but his arm is little worth,
And scarcely in the chase could cope
With timid fawn or antelope,
Far less would venture into strife
Where man contends for fame and life—
I would not trust that look or tone:
No—nor the blood so near my own.
That blood—he hath not heard—no more—
I'll watch him closer than before.
He is an Arab to my sight,*
Or Christian crouching in the fight;
But hark!—I hear Zuleika's voice:
Like Houris' hymn it meets mine ear:
She is the offspring of my choice:
Oh! more than ev'n her mother dear,
With all to hope and nought to fear—
My Peri! ever welcome here!
Sweet as the desert's fountain wave,
To lips just cool'd in time to save—
Such to my longing sight art thou:
Nor can they waft to Mecca's shrine

* Mejnoun and Leila, the Romeo and Juliet of the East. Sadi, the moral poet of Persia.

† "Tambour." Turkish drum, which sounds at sunrise, noon, and twilight.

* The Turks abhor the Arabs (who return the compliment a hundredfold) even more than they hate the Christians.

More thanks for life, than I for thine,
Who blest thy birth, and bless thee now."

VI.

Fair as the first that fell of womankind,
When on the dread yet lovely serpent smiling,
Whose image then was stamp'd upon her mind—
But once beguiled—and evermore beguiling:
Dazzling, as that, oh! too transcendant vision
To Sorrow's phantom-peopled slumber given,
When heart meets heart again in dreams Elysian,
And paints the lost on Earth revived in Heaven:
Soft as the memory of buried love; Pure as the prayer which Childhood wafts above,
Was she—the daughter of that rude old Chief,
Who met the maid with tears—but not of grief.

Who hath not proved how feebly words essay
To fix one spark of Beauty's heavenly ray?
Who doth not feel, until his failing sight
Faints into dimness with its own delight,
His changing cheek, his sinking heart confess
The might, the majesty of Loveliness?
Such was Zuleika—such around her shone
The nameless charms unmark'd by her alone—
The light of love, the purity of grace,
The mind, the Music breathing from her face,*
The heart whose softness harmonized the whole;
And, oh! that eye was in itself a Soul!
Her graceful arms in meekness bending
Across her gently-budding breast;
At one kind word those arms extending
To clasp the neck of him who blest
His child, caressing and carest,
Zuleika came—and Giaffir felt
His purpose half within him melt:
Not that against her fancied weal
His heart though stern could ever feel;
Affection chain'd her to that heart;
Ambition tore the links apart.

VII.

"Zuleika! child of gentleness!
How dear this very day must tell,
When I forget my own distress,
In losing what I love so well,
To bid thee with another dwell;
Another! and a braver man
Was never seen in battle's van.
We Moslem reck not much of blood;
But yet the line of Carasman,*
Unchanged, unchangeable hath stood
First of the bold Timariot bands
That won and well can keep their lands.
Enough that he who comes to woo
Is kinsman of the Bey Oglou:
His years need scarce a thought employ:
I would not have thee wed a boy.
And thou shalt have a nobler dower:
And his and my united power
Will laugh to scorn the death-firman,
Which others tremble but to scan,
And teach the messenger what fate
The bearer of such boon may wait.†
And now thou knowest thy father's will—
All that thy sex hath need to know:
'Twas mine to teach obedience still—
The way to love, thy lord may show."

VIII.

In silence bow'd the virgin's head;
And if her eye was filled with tears,
That stifled feeling dare not shed,
And changed her cheek from pale to red
And red to pale, as through her ears
Those winged words like arrows sped,
What could such be but maiden fears?
So bright the tear in Beauty's eye,
Love half regrets to kiss it dry;
So sweet the blush of Bashfulness,
Even Pity scarce can wish it less!

Whate'er it was the sire forgot;
Or if remember'd, mark'd it not;
Thrice clapp'd his hands, and call'd his steed,‡
Resign'd his gem-adorn'd chibouque,‖
And mounting featly for the mead,
With Maugrabees§ and Mamaluke,
His way amid his Delis took,¶
To witness many an active deed
With sabre keen, or blunt jerreed.

* This expression has met with objections. I will not refer to "Him who hath not Music in his soul," but merely request the reader to recollect, for ten seconds, the features of the woman whom he believes the most beautiful; and, if he then does not comprehend fully what is feebly expressed in this line, I shall feel sorry for us both. For an eloquent passage in the latest work of the first female writer of this, perhaps of any age, on the analogy (and the immediate comparison excited by that analogy) between "painting and music," see vol. iii., cap. 10, De l'Allemagne. And is not this connection still stronger with the original than the copy? with the coloring of Nature than of Art? After all, this is rather to be felt than described; still I think there are some who will understand it, at least they would have done had they beheld the countenance whose speaking harmony suggested the idea: for this passage is not drawn from imagination, but memory, that mirror which Affliction dashes to the earth, and looking down upon the fragments, only beholds the reflection multiplied.

* Carasman Oglu, or Kara Osman Oglou, is the principal landholder in Turkey: he governs Magnesia. Those who, by a kind of feudal tenure, possess land on condition of service, are called Timariots; they serve as Spahis, according to the extent of territory, and bring a certain number into the field, generally cavalry.

† When a Pacha is sufficiently strong to resist, the single messenger, who is always the first bearer of the order for his death, is strangled instead, and sometimes five or six, one after the other, on the same errand, by command of the refractory patient. If, on the contrary, he is weak or loyal, he bows, kisses the Sultan's respectable signature, and is bowstrung with great complacency. In 1810, several of "these presents" were exhibited in the niche of the Seraglio gate; among others, the head of the Pacha of Bagdad, a brave young man, cut off by treachery, after a desperate resistance.

‡ Clapping of the hands calls the servants. The Turks hate a superfluous expenditure of voice, and they have no bells.

‖ "Chibouque," the Turkish pipe, of which the amber mouth piece, and sometimes the ball which contains the leaf, is adorned with precious stones, if in possession of the wealthier orders.

§ "Maugrabee," Moorish mercenaries.

¶ "Delis," bravoes who form the forlorn hope of the cavalry, and always begin the action.

The Kislar only and his Moors
Watch well the Haram's massy doors.

IX.

His head was leant upon his hand,
His eye look'd o'er the dark blue water
That swiftly glides and gently swells
Between the winding Dardanelles;
But yet he saw nor sea nor strand,
Nor even his Pacha's turban'd band
Mix in the game of mimic slaughter,
Careering cleave the folded felt*
With sabre stroke right sharply dealt;
Nor mark'd the javelin-darting crowd,
Nor heards their Ollahs† wild and loud—
He thought but of old Giaffir's daughter!

X.

No word from Selim's bosom broke;
One sigh Zuleika's thought bespoke;
Still gazed he through the lattice grate,
Pale, mute, and mournfully sedate.
To him Zuleika's eye was turn'd,
But little from his aspect learn'd;
Equal her grief, yet not the same:
Her heart confess'd a gentler flame:
But yet that heart, alarm'd, or weak,
She knew not why, forbade to speak.
Yet speak she must—but when essay?
"How strange he thus should turn away!
Not thus we e'er before have met;
Not thus shall be our parting yet."
Thrice paced she slowly through the room,
And watch'd his eye—it still was fix'd:
She snatch'd the urn wherein was mix'd
The Persian Atar-gúl's perfume,‡
And sprinkled all its odors o'er
The pictured roof and marble floor:‖
The drops, that through his glittering vest
The playful girl's appeal address'd,
Unheeded o'er his bosom flew,
As if that breast were marble too.
"What, sullen yet? It must not be—
Oh! gentle Selim, this from thee!"
She saw in curious order set
The fairest flowers of Eastern land—
"He loved them once; may touch them yet,
If offered by Zuleika's hand."
The childish thought was hardly breathed
Before the rose was pluck'd and wreathed;
The next fond moment saw her seat
Her fairy form at Selim's feet:
"This rose to calm my brother's cares
A message from the Bulbul bears;*
It says to-night he will prolong
For Selim's ear his sweetest song;
And though his note is somewhat sad,
He'll try for once a strain more glad,
With some faint hope his alter'd lay
May sing these gloomy thoughts away.

XI.

"What! not receive my foolish flower?
Nay then I am indeed unblest:
On me can thus thy forehead lower?
And know'st thou not who loves thee best?
Oh, Selim dear! oh, more than dearest!
Say, is it me thou hat'st or fearest?
Come, lay thy head upon my breast,
And I will kiss thee into rest,
Since words of mine and songs must fail
Ev'n from my fabled nightingale.
I knew our sire at times was stern,
But this from thee had yet to learn:
Too well I know he loves thee not;
But is Zuleika's love forgot?
Ah, deem I right? the Pacha's plan—
This kinsman Bey of Carisman
Perhaps may prove some foe of thine:
If so, I swear by Mecca's shrine—
If shrines that ne'er approach allow
To woman's step admit her vow—
Without thy free consent, command,
The Sultan should not have my hand!
Think'st thou that I could bear to part
With thee, and learn to halve my heart?
Ah! were I sever'd from thy side
Where were thy friend—and who my guide?
Years have not seen, Time shall not see,
The hour that tears my soul from thee:
Even Azrael,† from his deadly quiver
When flies that shaft, and fly it must,
That parts all else, shall doom forever
Our hearts to undivided dust!"

XII.

He lived—he breathed—he moved—he felt;
He raised the maid from where she knelt;
His trance was gone—his keen eye shone
With thoughts that long in darkness dwelt;
With thoughts that burn—in rays that melt.
As the stream, late conceal'd
By the fringe of its willows,
When it rushes revealed
In the light of its billows;
As the bolt bursts on high
From the black cloud that bound it,
Flash'd the soul of that eye
Through the long lashes round it.
A war-horse at the trumpet's sound,
A lion roused by heedless hound,

*A twisted fold of felt is used for scimitar practice by the Turks, and few but Mussulman arms can cut through at a single stroke: sometimes a tough turban is used for the same purpose. The jerreed is a game of blunt javelins, animated and graceful.

† "Ollahs," Alla il Allah, the "Leilies," as the Spanish poets call them; the second is Ollah—a cry of which the Turks, for a silent people, are somewhat profuse, particularly during the jerreed, or in the chase, but mostly in battle. Their animation in the field, and gravity in the chamber, with their pipes and comboloios, form an amusing contrast.

‡ "Atar-gul," ottar of roses. The Persian is the finest.

‖ The ceiling and wainscots, or rather walls, of the Mussulman apartments are generally painted, in great houses, with one eternal and highly-colored view of Constantinople, wherein the principal feature is a noble attempt of perspective: below, arms, scimitars, etc., are in general fancifully and not inelegantly disposed.

*It has been much doubted whether the notes of this "Lover of the rose," are sad or merry; and Mr. Fox's remarks on the subject have provoked some learned controversy as to the opinions of the ancients on the subject. I dare not venture a conjecture on the point, though a little inclined to the "errare mallem," etc., if Mr. Fox was mistaken.

† "Azrael," the angel of death.

A tyrant waked to sudden strife
By graze of ill-directed knife,
Starts not to more convulsive life
Than he, who heard that vow display'd,
And all, before repress'd, betray'd:
"Now thou art mine, forever mine,
With life to keep, and scarce with life resign;
Now thou art mine, that sacred oath,
Though sworn by one, hath bound us both.
Yes, fondly, wisely hast thou done,
That vow hath saved more heads than one;
But blench not thou—thy simplest tress
Claims more from me than tenderness;
I would not wrong the slenderest hair
That clusters round thy forehead fair,
For all the treasures buried far
Within the caves of Istakar.*
This morning clouds upon me lower'd,
Reproaches on my head were shower'd,
And Giaffir almost call'd me coward!
Now I have motive to be brave;
The son of his neglected slave—
Nay, start not, 'twas the term he gave—
May show, though little apt to vaunt,
A heart his words nor deeds can daunt.
His son, indeed!—yet thanks to thee,
Perchance I am, at least shall be:
But let our plighted secret vow
Be only known to us as now.
I know the wretch who dares demand
From Giaffir thy reluctant hand;
More ill-got wealth, a meaner soul,
Holds not a Musselim's control:†
Was he not bred in Egripo?‡
A viler race let Israel show!
But let that pass—to none be told
Our oath; the rest shall time unfold.
To me and mine leave Osman Bey;
I've partisans for peril's day:
Think not I am what I appear;
I've arms, and friends, and vengeance near.

XIII.

"Think not thou art what thou appearest?
My Selim, thou art sadly changed:
This morn I saw thee gentlest, dearest;
But now thou'rt from thyself estranged.
My love thou surely knew'st before,
It ne'er was less, nor can be more.
To see thee, hear thee, near thee stay,
And hate the night, I know not why,
Save that we meet not but by day;
With thee to live, with thee to die,
I dare not to my hope deny;
Thy cheek, thine eyes, thy lips to kiss.
Like this—and this—no more than this;
For, Allah! sure thy lips are flame;
What fever in thy veins is flushing?
My own have nearly caught the same,
At least I feel my cheek too blushing.
To soothe thy sickness, watch thy health,
Partake, but never waste thy wealth,
Or stand with smiles unmurmuring by,
And lighten half thy poverty:
Do all but close thy dying eye,
For that I could not live to try;
To these alone my thoughts aspire:
More can I do? or thou require?
But, Selim, thou must answer why
We need so much of mystery?
The cause I cannot dream or tell,
But be it, since thou say'st 'tis well;
Yet what thou mean'st by 'arms' and
Beyond my weaker sense extends.['friends,'
I meant that Giaffir should have heard
The very vow I plighted thee;
His wrath would not revoke my word:
But surely he would leave me free.
Can this fond wish seem strange in me,
To be what I have ever been?
What other hath Zuleika seen
From simple childhood's earliest hour?
What other can she seek to see
Than thee, companion of her bower,
The partner of her infancy?
These cherish'd thoughts with life begun,
Say, why must I no more avow?
What change is wrought to make me shun
The truth; my pride, and thine till now?
To meet the gaze of stranger's eyes,
Our law, our creed, our God denies;
Nor shall one wandering thought of mine
At such, our Prophet's will, repine:
No! happier made by that decree,
He left me all in leaving thee.
Deep were my anguish, thus compell'd
To wed with one I ne'er beheld:
This wherefore should I not reveal?
Why wilt thou urge me to conceal?
I know the Pacha's haughty mood
To thee hath never boded good;
And he so often storms at nought,
Allah! forbid that e'er he ought!
And why I know not, but within
My heart concealment weighs like sin.
If then such secrecy be crime,
And such it feels while lurking here;
Oh, Selim! tell me yet in time,
Nor leave me thus to thoughts of fear.
Ah! yonder see the Tchocadar,*
My father leaves the mimic war;
I tremble now to meet his eye—
Say, Selim, canst thou tell me why?

XIV.

"Zuleika!—to thy tower's retreat
Betake thee—Giaffir I can greet;
And now with him I fain must prate
Of firmans, imposts, levies, state.
There's fearful news from Danube's banks,
Our Vizier nobly thins his ranks,

* The treasures of the Pre-Adamite Sultans. See D'Herbelot, article "Istakar."

† "Musselim," a governor, the next in rank after a Pacha: a Waywode is the third; and then come the "Agas."

‡ "Egripo"—the Negropont. According to the proverb, the Turks of Egripo, the Jews of Salonica, and the Greeks of Athens, are the worst of their respective races.

* "Tchocadar," one of the attendants who precedes a man of authority.

For which the Giaour may give him thanks!
Our Sultan hath a shorter way
Such costly triumph to repay.
But, mark me, when the twilight drum
  Hath warn'd the troops to food and sleep,
Unto thy cell will Selim come:
  Then softly from the Haram creep
  Where we may wander by the deep:
  Our garden-battlements are steep;
Nor these will rash intruder climb
To list our words, or stint our time;
And if he doth, I want not steel
Which some have felt, and more may feel.
Then shalt thou learn of Selim more
Than thou hast heard or thought before:
Trust me, Zuleika—fear not me!
Thou know'st I hold a Haram key."
  "Fear thee, my Selim! ne'er till now
Did word like this—"
  "Delay not thou;
I keep the key—and Haroun's guard
Have *some*, and hope of *more* reward.
To-night, Zuleika, thou shalt hear
My tale, my purpose, and my fear:
I am not, love! what I appear."

CANTO THE SECOND.

I.

The winds are high on Helle's wave,
  As on that night of stormy water,
When Love, who sent, forgot to save,
The young, the beautiful, the brave,
  The lonely hope of Sestos' daughter.
Oh! when alone along the sky
Her turret-torch was blazing high,
Though rising gale, and breaking foam,
And shrieking sea-birds warn'd him home;
And clouds aloft and tides below,
With signs and sounds, forbade to go,
He could not see, he would not hear,
Or sound or sign foreboding fear;
His eye but saw the light of love,
The only star it hail'd above;
His ear but rang with Hero's song,
"Ye waves, divide not lovers long!"—
That tale is old, but love anew
May nerve young hearts to prove as true.

II.

The winds are high, and Helle's tide
Rolls darkly heaving to the main;
And Night's descending shadows hide
  The field with blood bedew'd in vain,
The desert of old Priam's pride;
  The tombs, sole relics of his reign,
All—save immortal dreams that could beguile
The blind old man of Scio's rocky isle.

III.

Oh! yet—for there my steps have been;
  These feet have press'd the sacred shore,
These limbs that buoyant wave hath borne—
Minstrel! with thee to muse, to mourn,
  To trace again those fields of yore,
Believing every hillock green
  Contains no fabled hero's ashes,
And that around the undoubted scene
  Thine own "broad Hellespont" still dashes,*
Be long my lot! and cold were he
Who there could gaze denying thee!

IV.

The night hath closed on Helle's stream,
  Nor yet hath risen on Ida's hill
That moon, which shone on his high theme;
No warrior chides her peaceful beam,
  But conscious shepherds bless it still.
Their flocks are grazing on the mound
  Of him who felt the Dardan's arrow;
That mighty heap of gather'd ground
Which Ammon's son ran proudly round,*
By nations raised, by monarchs crown'd,
  Is now a lone and nameless barrow!
  Within—thy dwelling-place how narrow!
Without—can only strangers breathe
The name of him that *was* beneath:
Dust long outlasts the storied stone;
But Thou—thy very dust is gone!

V.

Late, late to-night will Dian cheer
The swain, and chase the boatman's fear;
Till then—no beacon on the cliff
May shape the course of struggling skiff;
The scatter'd lights that skirt the bay,
All, one by one, have died away;
The only lamp of this lone hour
Is glimmering in Zuleika's tower.

Yes, there is light in that lone chamber,
  And o'er her silken ottoman
Are thrown the fragrant beads of amber,
  O'er which her fairy fingers ran: †
Near these, with emerald rays beset,
(How could she thus that gem forget?)
Her mother's sainted amulet,‡

* The wrangling about this epithet, "the broad Hellespont," or the "boundless Hellespont," whether it means one or the other, or what it means at all, has been beyond all possibility of detail. I have even heard it disputed on the spot; and not foreseeing a speedy conclusion to the controversy, amused myself with swimming across it in the meantime, and probably may again, before the point is settled. Indeed, the question as to the truth of "the tale of Troy divine" still continues, much of it resting upon the talismanic word "apeiros." Probably Homer had the same notion of distance that a coquette has of time; and when he talks of boundless, means half a mile; as the latter, by a like figure, when she says eternal attachment, simply specifies three weeks.

*Before his Persian invasion, and crowned the altar with laurel, etc. He was afterwards imitated by Caracalla in his race. It is believed that the last also poisoned a friend, named Festus, for the sake of new Patroclan games. I have seen the sheep feeding on the tombs of Æsietes and Antilochus: the first is in the centre of the plain.

†When rubbed, the amber is susceptible of a perfume which is slight, but not disagreeable.

‡ The belief in amulets engraved on gems, or enclosed in gold boxes, containing scraps from the Koran, worn

Whereon engraved the Koorsee text,
Could smooth this life, and win the next:
And by her comboloio lies *
A Koran of illumined dyes;
And many a bright emblazon'd rhyme
By Persian scribes redeem'd from time;
And o'er those scrolls, not oft so mute,
Reclines her now neglected lute;
And round her lamp of fretted gold
Bloom flowers in urns of China's mould;
The richest work of Iran's loom,
And Sheeraz' tribute of perfume;
All that can eye or sense delight
Are gather'd in that gorgeous room;
But yet it hath an air of gloom.
She, of this Peri cell the sprite,
What does she hence, and on so rude a night?

VI.

Wrapt in the darkest sable vest,
Which none save noblest Moslem wear,
To guard from winds of heaven the breast
As heaven itself to Selim dear,
With cautious steps the thicket threading,
And starting oft, as through the glade
The gust its hollow moanings made,
Till on the smoother pathway treading,
More free her timid bosom beat,
The maid pursued her silent guide;
And though her terror urged retreat,
How could she quit her Selim's side?
How teach her tender lips to chide?

VII.

They reach'd at length a grotto, hewn
By nature, but enlarged by art,
Where oft her lute she wont to tune,
And oft her Koran conn'd apart;
And oft in youthful reverie
She dream'd what Paradise might be;
Where woman's parted soul shall go,
Her Prophet had disdain'd to show;
But Selim's mansion was secure,
Nor deem'd she, could he long endure
His bower in other worlds of bliss,
Without *her*, most beloved in this!
Oh! who so dear with him could dwell?
What Houri soothe him half so well?

VIII.

Since last she visited the spot, [grot;
Some change seem'd wrought within the
It might be only that the night
Disguised things seen by better light:
The brazen lamp but dimly threw
A ray of no celestial hue;
But in a nook within the cell
Her eye on stranger objects fell.
There arms were piled, not such as wield
The turban'd Delis in the field;
But brands of foreign blade and hilt,
And one was red—perchance with guilt!
Ah! how without can blood be spilt?
A cup, too, on the board was set
That did not seem to hold sherbet.
What may this mean? She turn'd to see
Her Selim—"Oh! can this be he!"

IX.

His robe of pride was thrown aside,
His brow no high-crown'd turban bore,
But in its stead a shawl of red,
Wreathed lightly round, his temples wore;
The dagger, on whose hilt the gem
Were worthy of a diadem,
No longer glitter'd at his waist,
Where pistols unadorn'd were braced;
And from his belt a sabre swung,
And from his shoulder loosely hung
The cloak of white, the thin capote
That decks the wandering Candiote;
Beneath—his golden plated vest
Clung like a cuirass to his breast;
The greaves below his knee that wound
With silvery scales were sheathed and bound.
But were it not that high command
Spake in his eye, and tone, and hand,
All that a careless eye could see
In him was some young Galiongée.*

X.

"I said I was not what I seem'd;
And now thou seest my words were true:
I have a tale thou hast not dream'd,
If sooth—its truth must others rue.
My story now 'twere vain to hide,
I must not see thee Osman's bride:
But had not thine own lips declared
How much of that young heart I shared,
I could not, must not, yet have shown
The darker secret of my own.
In this I speak not now of love;
That, let time, truth, and peril prove:
But first—oh! never wed another—
Zuleika! I am not thy brother!"

XI.

"Oh! not my brother! yet unsay—
God! am I left alone on earth
To mourn—I dare not curse—the day
That saw my solitary birth?
Oh! thou wilt love me now no more!
My sinking heart foreboded ill;
But know *me* all I was before,
Thy sister—friend—Zuleika still.

* "Comboloio," a Turkish rosary. The MSS., particularly those of the Persians, are richly adorned and illuminated. The Greek females are kept in utter ignorance: but many of the Turkish girls are highly accomplished, though not actually qualified for a Christian coterie. Perhaps some of our own "blues" might not be the worse for bleaching.

round the neck, wrist, or arm, is still universal in the East. The Koorsee (throne) verse in the second chapter of the Koran describes the attributes of the Most High, and is engraved in this manner, and worn by the pious, as the most esteemed and sublime of all sentences.

* "Galiongee," or Galiongi, a sailor, that is a Turkish sailor; the Greeks navigate, the Turks work the guns. Their dress is picturesque; and I have seen the Captain Pacha more than once wearing it as a kind of incog. Their legs, however, are generally naked. The buskins described in the text as sheathed behind with silver are those of an Arnaut robber, who was my host (he had quitted the profession) at his Pyrgo, near Gastouni in the Morea: they were plated in scales one over the other, like the back of an armadillo.

Thou led'st me here perchance to kill;
If thou hast cause for vengeance, see!
My breast is offer'd—take thy fill!
Far better with the dead to be,
Than live thus nothing now to thee!
Perhaps far worse, for now I know
Why Giaffir always seem'd thy foe;
And I, alas! am Giaffir's child,
For whom thou wert contemn'd, reviled.
If not thy sister—wouldst thou save
My life, oh, bid me be thy slave!"

XII.

"My slave, Zuleika!—nay, I'm thine:
But, gentle love, this transport calm,
Thy lot shall yet be linked with mine;
I swear it by our Prophet's shrine,
And be that thought thy sorrow's balm,
So may the Koran verse display'd*
Upon its steel direct my blade,
In danger's hour to guard us both,
As I preserve that awful oath!
The name in which thy heart hath prided
Must change; but my Zuleika, know
That tie is widen'd, not divided,
Although thy Sire's my deadliest foe.
My father was to Giaffir all
That Selim late was deem'd to thee;
That brother wrought a brother's fall,
But spared at least my infancy,
And lull'd me with a vain deceit
That yet alike return may meet.
He reared me, not with tender help,
But like the nephew of a Cain;†
He watched me like a lion's whelp,
That gnaws and yet may break his chain.
My father's blood in every vein
Is boiling; but for thy dear sake
No present vengeance will I take,
Though here I must no more remain.
But first, beloved Zuleika! hear
How Giaffir wrought this deed of fear.

XIII.

"How first their strife to rancor grew,
If love or envy made them foes,
It matters little if I knew;
In fiery spirits, slights, though few
And thoughtless, will disturb repose.
In war Abdallah's arm was strong,
Remember'd yet in Bosniac song,
And Paswan's rebel hordes attest*
How little love they bore such guest:
His death is all I need relate,
The stern effect of Giaffir's hate;
And how my birth disclosed to me, [free.
Whate'er beside it makes, hath made me

XIV.

"When Paswan, after years of strife,
At last for power, but first for life,
In Widdin's walls too proudly sate,
Our Pachas rallied round the state;
Nor last, nor least in high command,
Each brother led a separate band;
They gave their horse-tails to the wind,†
And mustering in Sophia's plain
Their tents were pitch'd, their posts as-
To one, alas, assign'd in vain! [sign'd:
What need of words? the deadly bowl,
By Giaffir's order drugg'd and given,
With venom subtle as his soul,
Dismiss'd Abdallah's hence to heaven.
Reclined and feverish in the bath,
He, when the hunter's sport was up,
But little deem'd a brother's wrath
To quench his thirst had such a cup;
The bowl a bribed attendant bore;
He drank one draught, nor needed more!‡
If thou my tale, Zuleika, doubt,
Call Haroun—he can tell it out.

XV.

"The deed once done, and Paswan's feud
In part suppress'd, though ne'er subdued,
Abdallah's Pachalic was gain'd:—
Thou know'st not what in our Divan
Can wealth procure for worse than man—
Abdallah's honors were obtain'd
By him a brother's murder stain'd:
'Tis true, the purchase nearly drain'd
His ill-got treasure, soon replaced.
Wouldst question whence? Survey the
And ask the squalid peasant how [waste,
His gains repay his broiling brow!—
Why me the stern usurper spared,
Why thus with me his palace shared,
I know not. Shame, regret, remorse,
And little fear from infant's force;
Besides, adoption as a son
By him whom Heaven accorded none,
Or some unknown cabal, caprice,

* The characters on all Turkish scimitars contain sometimes the name of the place of their manufacture, but more generally a text from the Koran, in letters of gold. Amongst those in my possession is one with a blade of singular construction; it is very broad, and the edge notched into serpentine curves like the ripple of water, or the wavering of flame. I asked the Armenian who sold it what possible use such a figure could add. He said, in Italian, that he did not know; but the Mussulmans had an idea that those of this form gave a severer wound, and liked it because it was "piu feroce." I did not much admire the reason, but bought it for its peculiarity.

† It is to be observed that every allusion to any thing or personage in the Old Testament, such as the Ark or Cain, is equally the privilege of Mussulman and Jew: indeed, the former profess to be much better acquainted with the lives, true and fabulous, of the patriarchs, than is warranted by our own sacred writ; and not content with Adam, they have a biography of Pre-Adamites. Solomon is the monarch of all necromancy, and Moses a prophet inferior only to Christ and Mahomet. Zuleika is the Persian name of Potiphar's wife; and her amour with Joseph constitutes one of the finest poems in their language. It is therefore no violation of costume to put the names of Cain and Noah into the mouth of a Moslem.

* Paswan Oglou, the rebel of Widdin; who, for the last years of his life, set the whole power of the Porte at defiance.

† "Horse-tail," the standard of a Pacha.

‡ Giaffir, Pacha of Argyro Castro, or Scutari, I am not sure which, was actually taken off by the Albanian Ali in the manner described in the text. Ali Pacha, while I was in the country, married the daughter of his victim, some years after the event had taken place at a bath in Sophia, or Adrianople. The poison was mixed in a cup of coffee, which is presented before the sherbet by the bath-keeper, after dressing.

Preserved me thus—but not in peace;
He cannot curb his haughty mood,
Nor I forgive a father's blood.

XIV.

"Within thy father's house are foes;
Not all who break his bread are true:
To these should I my birth disclose,
His days, his very hours, were few:
They only want a heart to lead,
A hand to point them to the deed.
But Haroun only knows, or knew,
This tale whose close is almost nigh;
He in Abdallah's palace grew,
And held that post in his Serai
Which holds he here—he saw him die:
But what could single slavery do?
Avenge his lord? alas! too late;
Or save his son from such a fate?
He chose the last, and when elate
With foes subdued, or friends betray'd,
Proud Giaffir in high triumph sate,
He led me helpless to his gate,
And not in vain it seems essay'd
To save the life for which he pray'd.
The knowledge of my birth secured
From all and each, but most from me;
Thus Giaffir's safety was ensured.
Removed he too from Roumelie
To this our Asiatic side,
Far from our seats by Danube's tide,
With none but Haroun, who retains
Such knowledge—and that Nubian feels
A tyrant's secrets are but chains,
From which the captive gladly steals,
And this and more to me reveals:
Such still to guilt just Allah sends—
Slaves, tools, accomplices—no friends!

XVII.

"All this, Zuleika, harshly sounds;
But harsher still my tale must be:
Howe'er my tongue thy softness wounds,
Yet I must prove all truth to thee.
I saw thee start this garb to see,
Yet it is one I oft have worn,
And long must wear: this Galiongée,
To whom thy plighted vow is sworn.
Is leader of those pirate hordes,
Whose laws and lives are on their swords;
To hear whose desolating tale
Would make thy waning cheek more pale:
Those arms thou seest my band have brought,
The hands that wield are not remote:
This cup too, for the rugged knaves
Is fill'd—once quaff'd, they ne'er repine;
Our Prophet might forgive the slaves;
They're only infidels in wine.

XVIII.

"What could I be? Proscribed at home,
And taunted to a wish to roam;
And listless left—for Giaffir's fear
Denied the courser and the spear—
Though oft—oh, Mahomet, how oft!—
In full Divan the despot scoff'd,
As if *my* weak, unwilling hand
Refused the bridle or the brand:
He ever went to war alone,
And pent me here untried, unknown;
To Haroun's care with women left,
By hope unblest, of fame bereft.
While thou—whose softness long endear'd,
Though it unmann'd me, still had cheer'd—
To Brusa's walls for safety sent,
Awaited'st there the field's event.
Haroun, who saw my spirit pining
Beneath inaction's sluggish yoke,
His captive, though with dread, resigning,
My thraldom for a season broke,
On promise to return before
The day when Giaffir's charge was o'er.
'Tis vain—my tongue cannot impart
My almost drunkenness of heart,
When first this liberated eye
Survey'd Earth, Ocean, Sun, and Sky,
As if my spirit pierced them through,
And all their inmost wonders knew!
One word alone can paint to thee
That more than feeling—I was Free!
E'en for thy presence ceased to pine;
The World,—nay Heaven itself, was mine!

XIX.

"The shallop of a trusty Moor
Convey'd me from this idle shore;
I long'd to see the isles that gem
Old Ocean's purple diadem:
I sought by turns, and saw them all:*
But when and where I join'd the crew,
With whom I'm pledged to rise or fall,
When all that we design to do
Is done, 'twill then be time more meet
To tell thee, when the tale's complete.

XX.

"'Tis true, they are a lawless brood,
But rough in form, nor mild in mood;
And every creed, and every race,
With them hath found—may find a place:
But open speech, and ready hand,
Obedience to their chief's command;
A soul for every enterprise,
That never sees with terror's eyes;
Friendship for each, and faith to all,
And vengeance vow'd for those who fall,
Have made them fitting instruments
For more than ev'n my own intents.
And some—and I have studied all
Distinguish'd from the vulgar rank,
But chiefly to my council call
The wisdom of the cautious Frank—
And some to higher thoughts aspire,
The last of Lambro's patriots there†

* The Turkish notions of almost all islands are confined to the Archipelago, the sea alluded to.

† Lambro Canzani, a Greek, famous for his efforts in 1789-90 for the independence of his country. Abandoned by the Russians, he became a pirate, and the Archipelago was the scene of his enterprises. He is said to be still alive* at St. Petersburg. He and Riga are the two most celebrated of the Greek Revolutionists.

* In 1813. [EDIT.]

Anticipated freedom share;
And oft around the cavern fire
On visionary schemes debate,
To snatch the Rayahs from their fate.*
So let them ease their hearts with prate
Of equal rights, which men ne'er knew;
I have a love for freedom too.

Ay! let me like the ocean-Patriarch roam,†
Or only know on land the Tartar's home!‡
My tent on shore, my galley on the sea,
Are more than cities and Serais to me:
Borne by my steed, or wafted by my sail,
Across the desert, or before the gale, [prow!
Bound where thou wilt, my barb! or glide, my
But be the star that guides the wanderer,
Thou!
Thou, my Zuleika! share and bless my bark:
The Dove of peace and promise to mine ark:
Or, since that hope denied in worlds of strife,
Be thou the rainbow to the storms of life!
The evening beam that smiles the clouds away,
And tints to-morrow with prophetic ray! [wall
Blest—as the Muezzin's strain from Mecca's
To pilgrims pure and prostrate at his call;
Soft—as the melody of youthful days, [praise:
That steals the trembling tear of speechless
Dear—as his native song to Exile's ears,
Shall sound each tone thy long-loved voice endears.
For thee in those bright isles is built a bower
Blooming as Aden in its earliest hour.§ [hand.
A thousand swords, with Selim's heart and
Wait—wave—defend—destroy—at thy com-
Girt by my band, Zuleika at my side, [mand!
The spoil of nations shall bedeck my bride.
The Haram's languid years of listless ease
Are well resign'd for cares—for joys like these:
Not blind to fate, I see, where'er I rove,
Unnumber'd perils—but one only love!
Yet well my toils shall that fond breast repay,
Though fortune frown or falser friends betray.
How dear the dream in darkest hours of ill,
Should all be changed, to find thee faithful still:
Be but thy soul, like Selim's, firmly shown;
To thee be Selim's tender as thine own;
To soothe each sorrow, share in each delight,
Blend every thought, do all—but disunite;
Once free, 'tis mine our horde again to guide:
Friends to each other, foes to aught beside:
Yet there we follow but the bent assign'd
By fatal Nature to man's warring kind:
Mark! where his carnage and his conquests cease!
He makes a solitude, and calls it—peace!
I like the rest must use my skill or strength,
But ask no land beyond my sabre's length:
Power sways but by division—her resource
The best alternative of fraud or force!
Ours be the last; in time deceit may come
When cities cage us in a social home: [heart
There ev'n thy soul might err—how oft the
Corruption shakes which peril could not part!
And woman, more than man, when death or woe,
Or even Disgrace, would lay her lover low,
Sunk in the lap of Luxury will shame—
Away suspicion!—*not* Zuleika's name!
But life is hazard at the best; and here
No more remains to win and much to fear.
Yes, fear! the doubt, the dread of losing thee,
By Osman's power, and Giaffir's stern decree.
That dread shall vanish with the favoring gale, [sail:
Which Love to-night hath promised to my
No danger daunts the pair his smile hath blest, [rest.
Their steps still roving, but their hearts at
With thee all toils are sweet, each clime hath charms;
Earth—sea alike—our world within our arms!
Ay—let the loud winds whistle o'er the deck,
So that those arms cling closer round my neck;
The deepest murmur of this lip shall be,
No sigh for safety, but a prayer for thee!
The war of elements no fears impart
To Love, whose deadliest bane is human Art;
There lie the only rocks our course can check:
Here moments menace—*there* are years of wreck! [shape!
But hence ye thoughts that rise in Horror's
This hour bestows, or ever bars escape.
Few words remain of mine my tale to close;
Of thine but *one* to waft us from our foes:
Yea—foes—to me will Giaffir's hate decline?
And is not Osman, who would part us, thine?

XXI.

"His head and faith from doubt and death
Return'd in time my guard to save;
Few heard, none told, that o'er the wave
From isle to isle, I roved the while,
And since, though parted from my band
Too seldom now I leave the land,
No deed they've done, nor deed shall do,
Ere I have heard and doom'd it too:
I form the plan, decree the spoil,
'Tis fit I oftener share the toil.
But now too long I've held thine ear;
Time presses, floats my bark, and here
We leave behind but hate and fear.
To-morrow Osman with his train
Arrives—to-night must break thy chain:
And wouldst thou save that haughty Bey,
Perchance *his* life who gave thee thine,—
With me this hour away—away!
But yet, though thou art plighted mine,
Wouldst thou recall thy willing vow
Appall'd by truths imparted now,

* "Rayahs," all who pay the capitation tax, called the "Haratch."

† This first of voyages is one of the few with which the Mussulmans profess much acquaintance.

‡ The wandering life of the Arabs, Tartars, and Turkomans, will be found well detailed in any book of Eastern travels. That it possesses a charm peculiar to itself, cannot be denied. A young French renegado confessed to Chateaubriand, that he never found himself alone, galloping in the desert, without a sensation approaching to rapture, which was indescribable.

§ "Jannet al Aden," the perpetual abode, the Mussulman paradise.

Here rest I—not to see thee wed:
But be that peril on *my* head!"

XXII.

Zuleika, mute and motionless,
Stood like that statue of distress,
When, her last hope forever gone,
The mother harden'd into stone;
All in the maid that eye could see
Was but a younger Niobè.
But ere her lip, or even her eye,
Essay'd to speak, or look reply,
Beneath the garden's wicket porch
Far flash'd on high a blazing torch!
Another—and another—and another—
"Oh! fly—no more—yet now my more than brother!"
Far, wide, through every thicket spread,
The fearful lights are gleaming red;
Nor these alone—for each right hand
Is ready with a sheathless brand.
They part, pursue, return, and wheel
With searching flambeau, shining steel;
And last of all, his sabre waving,
Stern Giaffir in his fury raving:
And now almost they touch the cave—
Oh! must that grot be Selim's grave?

XXIII.

Dauntless he stood—"'Tis come—soon past—
One kiss, Zuleika—'tis my last:
But yet my band not far from shore
May hear this signal, see the flash;
Yet now too few—the attempt were rash:
No matter—yet one effort more."
Forth to the cavern mouth he stept;
His pistol's echo ran on high,
Zuleika started not, nor wept,
Despair benumb'd her breast and eye!—
"They hear me not, or if they ply
Their oars, 'tis but to see me die;
That sound hath drawn my foes more nigh.
Then forth my father's scimitar,
Thou ne'er hast seen less equal war!
Farewell, Zuleika!—Sweet! retire;
Yet stay within—here linger safe,
At thee his rage will only chafe.
Stir not—lest even to thee perchance
Some erring blade or ball should glance.
Fear'st thou for him?—may I expire
If in this strife I seek thy sire!
No—though by him that poison pour'd;
No—though again he call me coward!
But tamely shall I meet their steel?
No—as each crest save *his* may feel!"

XXIV.

One bound he made, and gain'd the sand,
Already at his feet hath sunk
The foremost of the prying band,
A gasping head, a quivering trunk:
Another falls—but round him close
A swarming circle of his foes;
From right to left his path he cleft,
And almost met the meeting wave:
His boat appears—not five oars' length—
His comrades strain with desperate strength:
Oh! are they yet in time to save?
His feet the foremost breakers lave;
His band are plunging in the bay,
Their sabres glitter through the spray;
Wet—wild—unwearied to the strand
They struggle—now they touch the land!
They come—'tis but to add to slaughter—
His heart's best blood is on the water!

XXV.

Escaped from shot, unharm'd by steel,
Or scarcely grazed its force to feel,
Had Selim won, betray'd, beset,
To where the strand and billows met:
There as his last step left the land—
And the last death-blow dealt his hand—
Ah! wherefore did he turn to look
For her his eye but sought in vain?
That pause, that fatal gaze he took,
Hath doom'd his death, or fix'd his chain.
Sad proof, in peril and in pain,
How late will Lover's hope remain!
His back was to the dashing spray;
Behind, but close, his comrades lay,
When at the instant hiss'd the ball—
"So may the foes of Giaffir fall!"
Whose voice is heard? whose carbine rang?
Whose bullet through the night air sang,
Too nearly, deadly aim'd to err?
'Tis thine—Abdallah's Murderer!
The father slowly rued thy hate,
The son hath found a quicker fate:
Fast from his breast the blood is bubbling,
The whiteness of the sea-foam troubling—
If aught his lips essay'd to groan,
The rushing billows choked the tone!

XXVI.

Morn slowly rolls the clouds away;
Few trophies of the fight are there:
The shouts that shook the midnight-bay
Are silent; but some signs of fray
That strand of strife may bear.
And fragments of each shiver'd brand;
Steps stamp'd; and dash'd into the sand
The print of many a struggling hand
May there be mark'd; not far remote
A broken torch, an oarless boat;
And tangled on the weeds that heap
The beach where shelving to the deep
There lies a white capote!
'Tis rent in twain—one dark-red stain
The wave yet ripples o'er in vain:
But where is he who wore?
Ye! who would o'er his relics weep,
Go, seek them where the surges sweep
Their burthen round Sigæum's steep,
And cast on Lemnos' shore:
The sea-birds shriek above the prey,
O'er which their hungry beaks delay,
As shaken on his restless pillow,
His head heaves with the heaving billow;
That hand, whose motion is not life,
Yet feebly seems to menace strife,

Flung by the tossing tide on high,
Then levell'd with the wave—
What recks it, though that corse shall lie
Within a living grave?
The bird that tears that prostrate form
Hath only robb'd the meaner worm;
The only heart, the only eye
Had bled or wept to see him die,
Had seen those scatter'd limbs composed,
And mourn'd above his turban-stone,*
That heart had burst—that eye was closed—
Yea—closed before his own!

XXVII.

By Helle's stream there is a voice of wail!
And woman's eye is wet—man's cheek is pale.
Zuleika! last of Giaffir's race,
Thy destined lord is come too late:
He sees not—ne'er shall see thy face!
Can he not hear
The loud Wul-wulleh warn his distant ear?†
Thy handmaids weeping at the gate,
The Koran chanters of the hymn of fate,
The silent slaves with folded arms that wait,
Sighs in the hall and shrieks upon the gale,
Tell him thy tale!
Thou didst not view thy Selim fall! [cave
That fearful moment when he left the
Thy heart grew chill: [all—
He was thy hope—thy joy—thy love—thine
And that last thought on him thou couldst
Sufficed to kill: [not save
Burst forth in one wild cry—and all was still.
Peace to thy broken heart, and virgin grave!
Ah, happy! but of life to lose the worst!
That grief—though deep—though fatal—was thy first! [force
Thrice happy! ne'er to feel nor fear the
Of absence, shame, pride, hate, revenge, remorse! [ness lies!
And oh! that pang where more than madThe worm that will not sleep—and never dies;
Thought of the gloomy day and ghastly night,
That dreads the darkness, and yet loathes the light, [heart!
That winds around and tears the quivering
Ah, wherefore not consume it—and depart!
Woe to thee, rash and unrelenting chief!
Vainly thou heap'st the dust upon thy head,
Vainly the sackcloth o'er thy limbs doth spread;
By that same hand Abdallah—Selim—bled.
Now let it tear thy beard in idle grief: [bed,
Thy pride of heart, thy bride for Osman's
She, whom thy sultan had but seen to wed,
Thy Daughter's dead! [beam,
Hope of thine age, thy twilight's lonely
The Star hath set that shone on Helle's stream.

What quench'd its ray?—the blood that thou hast shed!
Hark! to the hurried question of Despair,
"Where is my child?"—an Echo answers—
"Where?"*

XXVIII.

Within the place of thousand tombs
That shine beneath, while dark above
The sad but living cypress glooms [leaf
And withers not, though branch and
Are stamped with an eternal grief,
Like early unrequited Love,
One spot exists which ever blooms,
Ev'n in that deadly grove—
A single rose is shedding there
Its lonely lustre, meek and pale:
It looks as planted by Despair—
So white—so faint—the slightest gale
Might whirl the leaves on high; [assail,
And yet, though storms and blight
And hands more rude than wintry sky
May wring it from the stem—in vain—
To-morrow sees it bloom again:
The stalk some spirit gently rears,
And waters with celestial tears;
For well may maids of Helle deem
That this can be no earthly flower, [hour,
Which mocks the tempest's withering
And buds unsheltered'd by a bower;
Nor droops, though Spring refuse her
Nor woos the summer beam: [shower,
To it the livelong night there sings
A bird unseen—but not remote:
Invisible his airy wings,
But soft as harp that Houri strings
His long entrancing note!
It were the Bulbul; but his throat
Though mournful, pours not such a
For they who listen cannot leave [strain:
The spot, but linger there and grieve,
As if they loved in vain!
And yet so sweet the tears they shed,
'Tis sorrow so unmix'd with dread,
They scarce can bear the morn to break
That melancholy spell,
And longer yet would weep and wake,
He sings so wild and well!
But when the day-blush bursts from high,
Expires that magic melody.
And some have been who could believe,
(So fondly youthful dreams deceive,
Yet harsh be they that blame,)
That note so piercing and profound
Will shape and syllable its sound
Into Zuleika's name.†

* A turban is carved in stone above the graves of men only.

† The death-song of the Turkish women. The "silent slaves" are the men, whose notions of decorum forbid complaint in public.

* "I came to the place of my birth, and cried, 'The friends of my youth, where are they?' and an Echo answered, 'Where are they?'"—From an Arabic MS.

The above quotation (from which the idea in the text is taken) must be already familiar to every reader—it is given in the first annotation, p. 67, of "The Pleasures of Memory"; a poem so well known as to render a reference almost superfluous, but to whose pages all will be delighted to recur.

† "And airy tongues that syllable men's names."—MILTON. For a belief that the souls of the dead inhabit the form of birds, we need not travel to the East. Lord Lyttleton's ghost story, the belief of the Duchess of Kendal, that George I. flew into her window in the

'Tis from her cypress summit heard,
That melts in air the liquid word;
'Tis from her lowly virgin earth
That white rose takes its tender birth.
There late was laid a marble stone;
Eve saw it placed—the Morrow gone!

It was no mortal arm that bore
That deep-fix'd pillar to the shore;
For there, as Helle's legends tell,
Next morn 'twas found where Selim fell,
Lash'd by the tumbling tide, whose wave
Denied his bones a holier grave;
And there by night, reclin'd, 'tis said,
Is seen a ghastly turban'd head:
And hence extended by the billow,
'Tis named the "Pirate-phantom's pillow!"
Where first it lay, that mourning flower
Hath flourish'd; flourisheth this hour,
Alone and dewy, coldly pure and pale;
As weeping Beauty's cheek at Sorrow's tale.

shape of a raven (see Orford's "Reminiscences"), and many other instances, bring this superstition nearer home. The most singular was the whim of a Worcester lady, who, believing her daughter to exist in the shape of a singing bird, literally furnished her pew in the cathedral with cages full of the kind; and as she was rich, and a benefactress in beautifying the church, no objection was made to her harmless folly. For this anecdote, see Orford's "Letters."

THE CORSAIR.

1814.

"——"I suoi pensieri in lui dormir non ponno."
TASSO, "Gerusalemme Liberata," Canto x.

TO THOMAS MOORE, ESQ.

MY DEAR MOORE,

I DEDICATE to you the last production with which I shall trespass on public patience, and your indulgence, for some years; and I own that I feel anxious to avail myself of the latest and only opportunity of adorning my pages with a name consecrated by unshaken public principle, and the most undoubted and various talents. While Ireland ranks you among the firmest of her patriots; while you stand alone the first of her bards in her estimation, and Britain repeats and ratifies the decree, permit one whose only regret, since our first acquaintance, has been the years he had lost before it commenced, to add the humble but sincere suffrage of friendship to the voice of more than one nation. It will at least prove to you that I have never forgotten the gratification derived from your society, nor abandoned the prospect of its renewal, whenever your leisure or inclination allows you to atone to your friends for too long an absence. It is said among those friends, I trust truly, that you are engaged in the composition of a poem whose scene will be laid in the East; none can do those scenes so much justice. The wrongs of your own country, the magnificent and fiery spirit of her sons, the beauty and feeling of her daughters, may there be found; and Collins, when he denominated his Oriental his Irish Eclogues, was not aware how true, at least, was a part of his parallel. Your imagination will create a warmer sun, and less clouded sky; but wildness, tenderness, and originality are part of your national claim of Oriental descent, to which you have already thus far proved your title more clearly than the most zealous of your country's antiquarians.

May I add a few words on a subject on which all men are supposed to be fluent, and none agreeable?—Self. I have written much, and published more than enough to demand a longer silence than I now meditate; but, for some years to come, it is my intention to tempt no further the award of "gods, men, nor columns." In the present composition I have attempted not the most difficult, but perhaps the best adapted measure to our language, the good old and now neglected heroic couplet. * * *

With regard to my story, and stories in general, I should have been glad to have rendered my personages more perfect and amiable, if possible, inasmuch as I have been sometimes criticised, and considered no less responsible for their deeds and qualities than if all had been personal. Be it so. If I have deviated into the gloomy vanity of "drawing from self," the pictures are probably like, since they are unfavorable; and if, not, those who know me are undeceived, and those who do not, I have little interest in undeceiving. I have no particular desire that any but my acquaintance should think the author better than the beings of his imagining; but I cannot help a little surprise, and perhaps amusement, at some odd critical exceptions in the present instance, when I see several bards (far more deserving, I allow) in very reputable plight, and quite exempted from all participation in the faults of those heroes, who, nevertheless, might be found with little more morality than "The Giaour," and perhaps—but no—I must admit Childe Harold to be a very repulsive personage; and as to his identity, those who like it must give him whatever alias they please.

If, however, it were worth while to remove the impression, it might be of some service to me, that the man who is alike the delight of his readers and his friends, the poet of all circles, and the idol of his own, permits me here and elsewhere to subscribe myself,

January 2, 1814.

Most truly and affectionately, his obedient servant,
BYRON.

CANTO THE FIRST.

"——nessun maggior dolore,
Che ricordarsi del tempo felice
Nella miseria,——."—DANTE.

I.

"O'ER the glad waters of the dark-blue sea,*
Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls as free,
Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam,
Survey our empire, and behold our home!
These are our realms, no limits to their sway,
Our flag the sceptre all who meet obey.

Ours the wild life in tumult still to range
From toil to rest, and joy in every change.
Oh, who can tell? not thou, luxurious slave!
Whose soul would sicken o'er the heaving wave:
Not thou, vain lord of wantonness and ease!
Whom slumber soothes not—pleasure cannot please—
Oh, who can tell, save he whose heart hath tried,
And danced in triumph o'er the waters wide,
The exulting sense—the pulse's maddening play,
That thrills the wanderer of that trackless way?

* The time in this poem may seem too short for the occurrences, but the whole of the Ægean isles are within a few hours' sail of the continent, and the reader must be kind enough to take the wind as I have often found it.

That for itself can woo the approaching fight,
And turn what some deem danger to delight;
That seeks what cravens shun with more than zeal,
And where the feebler faint can only feel—
Feel—to the rising bosom's inmost core,
Its hope awaken and its spirit soar?
No dread of death if with us die our foes—
Save that it seems even duller than repose:
Come when it will—we snatch the life of life— [strife?
When lost—what recks it but disease or
Let him who crawls enamor'd of decay,
Cling to his couch, and sicken years away;
Heave his thick breath, and shake his palsied head; [bed.
Ours—the fresh turf, and not the feverish
While gasp by gasp he falters forth his soul,
Ours with one pang—one bound—escapes control.
His corse may boast its urn and narrow cave,
And they who loathed his life may gild his grave: [shed,
Ours are the tears, though few, sincerely
When Ocean shrouds and sepulchres our dead.
For us, even banquets fond regret supply
In the red cup that crowns our memory;
And the brief epitaph in danger's day,
When those who win at length divide the prey, [brow,
And cry, Remembrance saddening o'er each
How had the brave who fell exulted *now!*"

II.

Such were the notes that from the Pirate's isle, [while;
Around the kindling watch-fire rang the
Such were the sounds that thrill'd the rocks along,
And unto ears as rugged seem'd a song!
In scatter'd groups upon the golden sand,
They game—carouse—converse—or whet the brand—
Select the arms—to each his blade assign,
And careless eye the blood that dims its shine;
Repair the boat, replace the helm or oar,
While others straggling muse along the shore;
For the wild bird the busy springes set,
Or spread beneath the sun the dripping net;
Gaze where some distant sail a speck supplies,
With all the thirsting eye of Enterprise;
Tell o'er the tales of many a night of toil,
And marvel where they next shall seize a spoil:
No matter where—their chief's allotment this;
Theirs, to believe no prey nor plan amiss.
But who that CHIEF? his name on every shore [more.
Is famed and fear'd—they ask and know no
With these he mingles not but to command;
Few are his words, but keen his eye and hand.
Ne'er seasons he with mirth their jovial mess,
But they forgive his silence for success.
Ne'er for his lip the purpling cup they fill,
That goblet passes him untasted still—
And for his fare—the rudest of his crew
Would that, in turn, have pass'd untasted too;
Earth's coarsest bread, the garden's homeliest roots,
And scarce the summer luxury of fruits,
His short repast in humbleness supply
With all a hermit's board would scarce deny.
But while he shuns the grosser joys of sense,
His mind seems nourish'd by that abstinence.
"Steer to that shore!"—they sail. "Do this!"—'tis done! [won.
"Now form and follow me!"—the spoil is
Thus prompt his accents and his actions still,
And all obey and few inquire his will;
To such, brief answer and contemptuous eye
Convey reproof, nor further deign reply.

III.

"A sail!—a sail!"—a promised prize to Hope!
Her nation—flag—how speaks the telescope?
No prize, alas! but yet a welcome sail:
The blood-red signal glitters in the gale.
Yes—she is ours—a home-returning bark—
Blow fair, thou breeze!—she anchors ere the dark.
Already doubled is the cape—our bay
Receives that prow which proudly spurns the spray.
How gloriously her gallant course she goes!
Her white wings flying—never from her foes—
She walks the waters like a thing of life,
And seems to dare the elements to strife.
Who would not brave the battle-fire—the wreck—
To move the monarch of her peopled deck?

IV.

Hoarse o'er her side the rustling cable rings;
The sails are furl'd; and anchoring, round she swings:
And gathering loiterers on the land discern
Her boat descending from the latticed stern.
'Tis mann'd—the oars keep concert to the strand,
Till grates her keel upon the shallow sand.
Hail to the welcome shout!—the friendly speech!
When hand grasps hand uniting on the beach;
The smile, the question, and the quick reply,
And the heart's promise of festivity!

V.

The tidings spread, and gathering grows the crowd:
The hum of voices, and the laughter loud,
And woman's gentler anxious tone is heard—
Friends'—husbands'—lovers' names in each dear word:
"Oh! are they safe? we ask not of success;
But shall we see them? will their accents bless?
From where the battle roars, the billows chafe,
They doubtless boldly did—but who are safe,
Here let them haste to gladden and surprise,
And kiss the doubt from these delighted eyes!"

VI.

"Where is our chief? for him we bear report— [ing—short:
And doubt that joy—which hails our com-
Yet thus sincere 'tis cheering, though so brief;
But, Juan! instant guide us to our chief:
Our greeting paid, we'll feast on our return,
And all shall hear what each may wish to learn."
Ascending slowly by the rock-hewn way,
To where his watch-tower beetles o'er the bay,
By bushy brake, and wild flowers blossoming,
And freshness breathing from each silver spring, [burst,
Whose scatter'd streams from granite basins
Leap into life, and sparkling woo your thirst;
From crag to cliff they mount.—Near yonder cave,
What lonely straggler looks along the wave?
In pensive posture leaning on the brand,
Not oft a resting-staff to that red hand?
'Tis he—'tis Conrad—here, as wont—alone;
"On—Juan!—on—and make our purpose known. [greet
The bark he views—and tell him we would
His ear with tidings he must quickly meet:
We dare not yet approach—thou know'st his mood,
When strange or uninvited steps intrude."

VII.

Him Juan sought, and told of their intent:
He spake not, but a sign express'd assent.
These Juan calls—they come—to their salute
He bends him slightly, but his lips are mute.
"These letters, Chief, are from the Greek—the spy,
Who still proclaims our spoil or peril nigh:
Whate'er his tidings, we can well report
Much that"—"Peace, peace!"—he cuts their prating short. [each
Wondering they turn, abash'd, while each to
Conjecture whispers in his muttering speech:
They watch his glance with many a stealing look,
To gather how that eye the tidings look;
But, this as if he guess'd, with head aside,
Perchance from some emotion, doubt, or pride,
He read the scroll—"My tablets, Juan, hark—
Where is Gonsalvo?"
"In the anchor'd bark."
"There let him stay—to him this order bear,
Back to your duty—for my course prepare:
Myself this enterprise to-night will share."
"To-night, Lord Conrad?"
"Ay! at set of sun:
The breeze will freshen when the day is done.
My corslet—cloak—one hour and we are gone.
Sling on thy bugle—see that free from rust
My carbine-lock springs worthy of my trust;
Be the edge sharpen'd of my boarding-brand,
And give its guard more room to fit my hand.
This let the armorer with speed dispose;
Last time, it more fatigued my arm than foes:
Mark that the signal-gun be duly fired,
To tell us when the hour of stay's expired."

VIII.

They make obeisance, and retire in haste,
Too soon to seek again the watery waste:
Yet they repine not—so that Conrad guides;
And who dare question aught that he decides?
That man of loneliness and mystery, [sigh:
Scarce seen to smile, and seldom heard to
Whose name appals the fiercest of his crew,
And tints each swarthy cheek with sallower hue; [art
Still sways their souls with that commanding
That dazzles, leads, yet chills the vulgar heart.
What is that spell, that thus his lawless train
Confess and envy, yet oppose in vain?
What should it be, that thus their faith can bind? [Mind!
The power of Thought—the magic of the
Link'd with success, assumed and kept with skill,
That mould's another's weakness to its will;
Wields with their hands, but, still to these unknown, [own.
Makes even their mightiest deeds appear his
Such hath it been—shall be: beneath the sun
The many still must labor for the one!
'Tis nature's doom—but let the wretch who toils, [spoils.
Accuse not, hate not *him* who wears the
Oh! if he knew the weight of splendid chains,
How light the balance of his humbler pains!

IX.

Unlike the heroes of each ancient race,
Demons in act, but gods at least in face,
In Conrad's form seems little to admire, [fire;
Though his dark eyebrow shades a glance of
Robust, but not Herculean—to the sight
No giant frame sets forth his common height;
Yet, in the whole, who paused to look again,
Saw more than marks the crowd of vulgar men:
They gaze and marvel how—and still confess
That thus it is, but why they cannot guess.
Sunburnt his cheek, his forehead high and pale
The sable curls in wild confusion veil;
And oft perforce his rising lip reveals
The haughtier thought it curbs, but scarce conceals. [eral mien,
Though smooth his voice, and calm his gen-
Still seems there something he would not have seen; [hue
His features' deepening lines and varying
At times attracted, yet perplex'd the view,
As if within that murkiness of mind
Work'd feelings fearful, and yet undefined;
Such might it be—that none could truly tell—
Too close inquiry his stern glance would quell.
There breathe but few whose aspect might defy
The full encounter of his searching eye;
He had the skill, when Cunning's gaze would seek [cheek,
To probe his heart and watch his changing

At once the observer's purpose to espy,
And on himself roll back his scrutiny,
Lest he to Conrad rather should betray
Some secret thought, than drag that chief's to day.
There was a laughing Devil in his sneer,
That raised emotions both of rage and fear;
And where his frown of hatred darkly fell,
Hope withering fled, and Mercy sighed farewell!

X.

Slight are the outward signs of evil thought,
Within — within— 'twas there the spirit wrought! [Guile,
Love shows all changes: Hate, Ambition,
Betray no further than the bitter smile:
The lip's least curl, the lightest paleness thrown
Along the govern'd aspect, speak alone
Of deeper passions, and to judge their mien,
He who would see, must be himself unseen.
Then—with the hurried tread, the upward eye,
The clenched hand, the pause of agony,
That listens, starting, lest the step too near
Approach intrusive on that mood of fear;
Then—with each feature working from the heart, [part;
With feelings loosed to strengthen—not de-
That rise, convulse, contend—that freeze or glow,
Flush in the cheek, or damp upon the brow;
Then, Stranger! if thou canst, and tremblest not,
Behold his soul—the rest that soothes his lot!
Mark how that lone and blighted bosom sears
The scathing thought of execrated years!
Behold—but who hath seen, or e'er shall see,
Man as himself—the secret spirit free!

XI.

Yet was not Conrad thus by Nature sent
To lead the guilty—guilt's worst instrument:
His soul was changed, before his deeds had driven
Him forth to war with man and forfeit heaven. [school,
Warp'd by the world in Disappointment's
In words too wise, in conduct *there* a fool;
Too firm to yield, and far too proud to stoop,
Doom'd by his very virtues for a dupe,
He curs'd those virtues as the cause of ill,
And not the traitors who betray'd him still;
Nor deem'd that gifts bestow'd on better men
Had left him joy, and means to give again.
Fear'd, shunn'd, belied, ere youth had lost her force,
He hated man too much to feel remorse,
And thought the voice of wrath a sacred call,
To pay the injuries of some on all.
He knew himself a villain, but he deem'd
The rest no better than the thing he seem'd;
And scorn'd the best, as hypocrites who hid
Those deeds the bolder spirit plainly did.
He knew himself detested, but he knew
The hearts that loathed him, crouch'd and dreaded too.

Lone, wild, and strange, he stood alike exempt
From all affection and from all contempt:
His name could sadden, and his acts surprise;
But they that fear'd him dared not to despise.
Man spurns the worm, but pauses ere he wake
The slumbering venom of the folded snake:
The first may turn, but not avenge the blow;
The last expires, but leaves no living foe:
Fast to the doom'd offender's form it clings,
And he may crush—not conquer—still it stings!

XII.

None are all evil—quickening round his heart,
One softer feeling would not yet depart:
Oft could he sneer at others, as beguiled
By passions worthy of a fool or child;
Yet 'gainst that passion vainly still he strove,
And even in him it asks the name of Love!
Yes, it was love—unchangeable—unchanged,
Felt but for one from whom he never ranged;
Though fairest captives daily met his eye,
He shunn'd, nor sought, but coldly pass'd them by: [bower,
Though many a beauty droop'd in prison'd
None ever soothed his most unguarded hour.
Yes—it was Love—if thoughts of tenderness,
Tried in temptation, strengthen'd by distress,
Unmoved by absence, firm in every clime,
And yet—oh, more than all!—untired by time;
Which nor defeated hope, nor baffled wile,
Could render sullen were she near to smile,
Nor rage could fire, nor sickness fret to vent
On her one murmur of his discontent;
Which still would meet with joy, with calmness part, [heart;
Lest that his look of grief should reach her
Which nought removed, nor menaced to remove—
If there be love in mortals—this was love!
He was a villain—ay, reproaches shower
On him—but not the passion, nor its power,
Which only proved, all other virtues gone,
Nor guilt itself could quench this loveliest one!

XIII.

He paused a moment—till his hastening men
Pass'd the first winding downward to the glen.
"Strange tidings!—many a peril have I past,
Nor know I why this next appears the last!
Yet so my heart forebodes, but must not fear,
Nor shall my followers find me falter here.
'Tis rash to meet, but surer death to wait
Till here they hunt us to undoubted fate;
And if my plan but hold, and Fortune smile,
We'll furnish mourners for our funeral pile.
Ay, let them slumber—peaceful be their dreams! [beams
Morn ne'er awoke them with such brilliant
As kindle high to-night (but blow, thou breeze!)
To warm these slow avengers of the seas.
Now to Medora—Oh! my sinking heart,
Long may her own be lighter than thou art!
Yet was I brave—mean boast where all are brave!
Even insects sting for aught they seek to save.

This common courage which with brutes we share,
That owes its deadliest efforts to despair,
Small merit claims; but 'twas my nobler hope
To teach my few with numbers still to cope.
Long have I led them—not to vainly bleed:
No medium now—we perish or succeed!
So let it be—it irks not me to die;
But thus to urge them whence they cannot fly.
My lot hath long had little of my care,
But chafes my pride thus baffled in the snare:
Is this my skill? my craft? to set at last
Hope, power, and life upon a single cast?
Oh, Fate!—accuse thy folly, not thy fate;
She may redeem thee still—nor yet too late."

XIV.

Thus with himself communion held he, till
He reach'd the summit of his tower-crown'd hill:
There at the portal paused—for wild and soft
He heard those accents never heard too oft;
Through the high lattice far yet sweet they rung,
And these the notes his bird of beauty sung:

"Deep in my soul that tender secret dwells,
Lonely and lost to light forevermore,
Save when to thine my heart responsive swells,
Then trembles into silence as before.

"There, in its centre, a sepulchral lamp
Burns the slow flame, eternal—but unseen;
Which not the darkness of despair can damp,
Though vain its ray as it had never been.

"Remember me—Oh! pass not thou my grave
Without one thought whose relics there recline:
The only pang my bosom dare not brave
Must be to find forgetfulness in thine.

"My fondest—faintest—latest accents hear:
Grief for the dead not virtue can reprove;
Then give me all I ever ask'd—a tear,
The first—last—sole reward of so much love!"

He pass'd the portal—cross'd the corridor,
And reach'd the chamber as the strain gave o'er;
"My own Medora!—sure thy song is sad—"

"In Conrad's absence wouldst thou have it
Without thine ear to listen to my lay, [glad?
Still must my song my thoughts, my soul betray;
Still must each accent to my bosom suit, [mute!
My heart unhush'd—although my lips were
Oh! many a night on this lone couch reclined,
My dreaming fear with storms hath wing'd the wind, [sail
And deem'd the breath that gently fann'd thy
The murmuring prelude of the ruder gale;
Though soft, it seem'd the low prophetic dirge,
That mourn'd thee floating on the savage surge:
Still would I rise to rouse the beacon fire,
Lest spies less true should let the blaze expire;
And many a restless hour outwatch'd each star,
And morning came—and still thou wert afar.
Oh! how the chill blast on my bosom blew,
And day broke dreary on my troubled view,
And still I gazed and gazed—and not a prow
Was granted to my tears, my truth, my vow!
At length 'twas noon—I hail'd and blest the mast
That met my sight—it near'd—Alas, it pass'd!
Another came—O God! 'twas thine at last!
Would that those days were over! wilt thou ne'er,
My Conrad, learn the joys of peace to share?
Sure thou hast more than wealth, and many a home
As bright as this invites us not to roam:
Thou know'st it is not peril that I fear,
I only tremble when thou art not here;
Then not for mine, but that far dearer life,
Which flies from love and languishes for strife—
How strange that heart, to me so tender still,
Should war with nature and its better will!"

"Yea, strange indeed—that heart hath long been changed; [ed,
Worm-like 'twas trampled—adder-like aveng-
Without one hope on earth beyond thy love,
And scarce a glimpse of mercy from above.
Yet the same feeling which thou dost condemn,
My very love to thee is hate to them,
So closely mingling here, that disentwined,
I cease to love thee when I love mankind;
Yet dread not this—the proof of all the past
Assures the future that my love will last;
But—O Medora! nerve thy gentler heart:
This hour again—but not for long—we part."
"This hour we part!—my heart foreboded this!
Thus ever fade my fairy dreams of bliss.
This hour—it cannot be—this hour away!
Yon bark hath hardly anchor'd in the bay:
Her consort still is absent, and her crew
Have need of rest before they toil anew:
My love! thou mock'st my weakness; and would'st steel
My breast before the time when it must feel;
But trifle now no more with my distress,
Such mirth hath less of play than bitterness.
Be silent, Conrad!—dearest! come and share
The feast these hands delighted to prepare:
Light toil! to cull and dress thy frugal fare!
See, I have pluck'd the fruit that promised best,
And where not sure, perplex'd, but pleased, I guess'd
At such as seem'd the fairest: thrice the hill
My steps have wound to try the coolest rill;
Yes! thy sherbet to-night will sweetly flow,
See how it sparkles in its vase of snow!
The grape's gay juice thy bosom never cheers
Thou more than Moslem when the cup appears:
Think not I mean to chide—for I rejoice
What others deem a penance is thy choice.
But come, the board is spread; our silver lamp
Is trimm'd and heeds not the Sirocco's damp.

Then shall my handmaids while the time along,
And join with me the dance, or wake the song;
Or my guitar, which still thou lov'st to hear,
Shall soothe or lull:—or, should it vex thine ear,
We'll turn the tale, by Ariosto told,
Of fair Olympia loved and left of old.*
Why, thou wert worse than he who broke his vow [now:
To that lost damsel, shouldst thou leave me
Or even that traitor chief—I've seen thee smile,
When the clear sky show'd Ariadne's Isle,
Which I have pointed from these cliffs the while:
And thus, half sportive, half in fear, I said,
Lest time should raise that doubt to more than dread,
Thus Conrad, too, will quit me for the main:
And he deceived me—for—he came again!"

"Again—again—and oft again, my love!
If there be life below, and hope above,
He will return—but now the moments bring
The time of parting with redoubled wing:
The why—the where—what boots it now to tell? [well!
Since all must end in that wild word—fare-
Yet would I fain—did time allow—disclose—
Fear not—these are no formidable foes;
And here shall watch a more than wonted guard,
For sudden siege and long defence prepared:
Nor be thou lonely—though thy lord's away,
Our matrons and thy handmaids with thee stay; [meet,
And this thy comfort—that when next we
Security shall make repose more sweet.
List!—'tis the bugle"—Juan shrilly blew—
"One kiss—one more—another—Oh! Adieu!"
She rose—she sprung—she clung to his embrace,
Till his heart heaved beneath her hidden face;
He dared not raise to his that deep-blue eye,
Which downcast droop'd in tearless agony.
Her long fair hair lay floating o'er his arms,
In all the wildness of dishevell'd charms;
Scarce beat that bosom where his image dwelt
So full—*that* feeling seem'd almost unfelt!
Hark—peals the thunder of the signal-gun!
It told 'twas sunset, and he cursed that sun.
Again—again—that form he madly press'd!
Which mutely clasp'd, imploringly caress'd!
And tottering to the couch his bride he bore,
One moment gazed, as if to gaze no more;
Felt that for him earth held but her alone,
Kiss'd her cold forehead—turn'd—is Conrad gone?

XV.

"And is he gone?"—on sudden solitude
How oft that fearful question will intrude:
"'Twas but an instant past, and here he stood!
And now"—without the portal's porch she rush'd, [gush'd;
And then at length her tears in freedom
Big, bright, and fast, unknown to her they fell;
But still her lips refused to send—"Farewell!"
For in that word—that fatal word—howe'er
We promise, hope, believe—there breathes despair.
O'er every feature of that still, pale face,
Had sorrow fix'd what time can ne'er erase:
The tender blue of that large loving eye
Grew frozen with its gaze on vacancy,
Till—oh, how far!—it caught a glimpse of him,
And then it flow'd, and frenzied seem'd to swim, [lashes dew'd
Through those long, dark, and glistening
With drops of sadness oft to be renew'd.
"He's gone!"—against her heart that hand is driven, [heaven;
Convulsed and quick—then gently raised to
She look'd, and saw the heaving of the main;
The white sail set—she dared not look again;
But turn'd with sickening soul within the
"It is no dream—and I am desolate!" [gate—

XVI.

From crag to crag descending, swiftly sped
Stern Conrad down, nor once he turned his head;
But shrunk whene'er the windings of his way
Forced on his eye what he would not survey,
His lone but lovely dwelling on the steep,
That hail'd him first when homeward from the deep;
And she—the dim and melancholy star,
Whose ray of beauty reach'd him from afar,
On her he must not gaze, he must not think,
There he might rest—but on Destruction's brink:
Yet once almost he stopp'd, and nearly gave
His fate to chance, his projects to the wave.
But no—it must not be—a worthy chief
May melt, but not betray to woman's grief.
He sees his bark, he notes how fair the wind,
And sternly gathers all his might of mind:
Again he hurries on; and as he hears
The clang of tumult vibrate on his ears,
The busy sounds, the bustle of the shore,
The shout, the signal, and the dashing oar;
As marks his eye the seaboy on the mast,
The anchors rise, the sails unfurling fast,
The waving kerchiefs of the crowd that urge
That mute adieu to those who stem the surge;
And more than all, his blood-red flag aloft,
He marvell'd how his heart could seem so soft.
Fire in his glance, and wildness in his breast,
He feels of all his former self possest;
He bounds—he flies—until his footsteps reach
The verge where ends the cliff, begins the beach, [breathe
There checks his speed; but pauses less to
The breezy freshness of the deep beneath,
Than there his wonted statelier step renew;
Nor rush, disturb'd by haste, to vulgar view:
For well had Conrad learn'd to curb the crowd,
By arts that veil, and oft preserve the proud,

* Orlando Furioso, Canto 10.

His was the lofty port, the distant mien, [seen;
That seems to shun the sight—and awes if
The solemn aspect, and the high-born eye,
That checks low mirth but lacks not courtesy;
All these he wielded to command assent;
But where he wish'd to win, so well unbent,
That kindness cancell'd fear in those who heard, [word,
And others' gifts show'd mean beside his
When echo'd to the heart as from his own
His deep yet tender melody of tone;
But such was foreign to his wonted mood,
He cared not what he soften'd, but subdued;
The evil passions of his youth had made
Him value less who loved—than what obey'd.

XVII.

Around him mustering ranged his ready guard,
Before him Juan stands—"Are all prepared?"
"They are—nay, more—embark'd: the latest
Waits but my chief—" [boat
"My sword and my capote."
Soon firmly girded on, and lightly slung,
His belt and cloak were o'er his shoulders flung; [bends
"Call Pedro here!"—He comes—and Conrad
With all the courtesy he deign'd his friends:
"Receive these tablets, and peruse with care,
Words of high trust and truth are graven there;
Double the guard, and when Anselmo's bark
Arrives, let him alike these orders mark:
In three days (serve the breeze) the sun shall shine
On our return—till then all peace be thine!"
This said, his brother pirate's hand he wrung,
Then to his boat with haughty gesture sprung.
Flash'd the dipt oars, and sparkling with the stroke, [broke;
Around the waves' phosphoric* brightness
They gain the vessel—on the deck he stands—
Shrieks the shrill whistle—ply the busy hands;
He marks how well the ship her helm obeys,
How gallant all her crew—and deigns to praise.
His eyes of pride to young Gonsalvo turn—
Why doth he start, and inly seem to mourn?
Alas! those eyes beheld his rocky tower,
And live a moment o'er the parting hour;
She—his Medora—did she mark the prow?
Ah! never loved he half so much as now!
But much must yet be done ere dawn of day—
Again he mans himself and turns away;
Down to the cabin with Gonsalvo bends,
And there unfolds his plan—his means—and ends; [chart,
Before them burns the lamp, and spreads the
And all that speaks and aids the naval art:
They to the midnight watch protract debate;
To anxious eyes what hour is ever late?
Meantime the steady breeze serenely blew,
And fast and falcon-like the vessel flew;
Pass'd the high headlands of each clustering isle, [smile:
To gain their port—long—long ere morning
And soon the night-glass through the narrow bay
Discovers where the Pacha's galleys lay.
Count they each sail, and mark how there supine [shine.
The lights in vain o'er heedless Moslems
Secure, unnoted, Conrad's prow pass'd by,
And anchor'd where his ambush meant to lie;
Screen'd from espial by the jutting cape,
That rears on high its rude fantastic shape.
Then rose his band to duty—not from sleep—
Equipp'd for deeds alike on land or deep;
While lean'd their leader o'er the fretting flood,
And calmly talk'd—and yet he talk'd of blood!

CANTO THE SECOND.

"Conosceste i dubiosi desiri!"—DANTE.

I.

In Coron's bay floats many a galley light,
Through Coron's lattices the lamps are bright,
For Seyd, the Pacha, makes a feast to-night:
A feast for promised triumph yet to come,
When he shall drag the fetter'd Rovers home;
This hath he sworn by Allah and his sword;
And faithful to his firman and his word,
His summon'd prows collect along the coast,
And great the gathering crews, and loud the boast,
Already shared the captives and the prize,
Though far the distant foe they thus despise;
'Tis but to sail—no doubt to-morrow's sun
Will see the Pirates bound—their haven won!
Meantime the watch may slumber, if they will,
Nor only wake to war, but dreaming kill.
Though all, who can, disperse on shore and seek
To flesh their glowing valor on the Greek;
How well such deed becomes the turban'd brave,
To bare the sabre's edge before a slave!
Infest his dwelling—but forbear to slay,
Their arms are strong, yet merciful to-day,
And do not deign to smite because they may,
Unless some gay caprice suggests the blow,
To keep in practice for the coming foe.
Revel and rout the evening hours beguile,
And they who wish to wear a head must smile;
For Moslem mouths produce their choicest cheer,
And hoard their curses, till the coast is clear.

II.

High in his hall reclines the turban'd Seyd:
Around—the bearded chiefs he came to lead.

* By night, particularly in a warm latitude, every stroke of the oar, every motion of the boat or ship, is followed by a slight flash like sheet-lightning from the water.

Removed the banquet, and the last pilaff—
Forbidden draughts, 'tis said, he dared to quaff,
Though to the rest the sober berry's juice,*
The slaves bear round for rigid Moslems' use:
The long chibouquet† dissolving cloud supply,
While dance the Almas‡ to wild minstrelsy.
The rising morn will view the chiefs embark;
But waves are somewhat treacherous in the dark;
And revellers may more securely sleep
On silken couch than o'er the rugged deep;
Feast there who can—nor combat till they must,
And less to conquest than to Korans trust;
And yet the numbers crowded in his host
Might warrant more than even the Pacha's boast.

III.

With cautious reverence from the outer gate,
Slow stalks the slave, whose office there to wait,
Bows his bent head, his hand salutes the floor,
Ere yet his tongue the trusted tidings bore:
"A captive Dervise, from the Pirate's nest
Escaped, is here—himself would tell the rest."§
He took the sign from Seyd's assenting eye,
And led the holy man in silence nigh.
His arms were folded on his dark-green vest,
His step was feeble, and his look deprest;
Yet worn he seem'd of hardship more than years,
And pale his cheek with penance, not from fears.
Vow'd to his God—his sable locks he wore,
And these his lofty cap rose proudly o'er;
Around his form his loose long robe was thrown,
And wrapt a breast bestow'd on Heaven alone;
Submissive, yet with self-possession mann'd,
He calmly met the curious eyes that scann'd;
And question of his coming fain would seek,
Before the Pacha's will allow'd to speak.

IV.

"Whence com'st thou, Dervise?"
"From the outlaw's den,
A fugitive—"
"Thy capture where and when?"
"From Scalonovo's port to Scio's isle,
The Saick was bound; but Allah did not smile
Upon our course—the Moslem merchant's gains
Beyond the wandering freedom which I lost:
At length a fisher's humble boat by night
Afforded hope, and offer'd chance of flight;
I seized the hour, and find my safety here;
With thee—most mighty Pacha! who can fear?"

"How speed the outlaws? stand they well prepared,
Their plunder'd wealth, and robber's rock, to guard?
Dream they of this our preparation, doom'd
To view with fire their scorpion nest consumed?"

"Pacha! the fetter'd captive's mourning eye,
That weeps for flight, but ill can play the spy:
I only heard the reckless waters roar,
Those waves that would not bear me from the shore:
I only mark'd the glorious sun and sky,
Too bright—too blue—for my captivity;
And felt that all which Freedom's bosom cheers,
Must break my chain before it dried my tears.
This may'st thou judge, at least, from my escape,
They little deem of aught in peril's shape;
Else vainly had I pray'd or sought the chance
That leads me here—if eyed with vigilance:
The careless guard that did not see me fly,
May watch as idly when thy power is nigh.
Pacha! my limbs are faint—and nature craves
Food for my hunger, rest from tossing waves:
Permit my absence—peace be with thee! Peace
With all around!—now grant repose—release."

"Stay, Dervise! I have more to question—stay,
I do command thee—sit—dost hear?—obey!
More I must ask, and food the slaves shall bring;
Thou shalt not pine where all are banqueting:
The supper done—prepare thee to reply,
Clearly and full—I love not mystery." [man,
'Twere vain to guess what shook the pious
Who look'd not lovingly on that Divan;
Nor show'd high relish for a banquet prest,
And less respect for every fellow-guest.
'Twas but a moment's peevish hectic pass'd
Along his cheek, and tranquillized as fast:
He sate him down in silence, and his look
Resumed the calmness which before forsook:
The feast was usher'd in, but sumptuous fare
He shunn'd as if some poison mingled there.
For one so long condemn'd to toil and fast,
Methinks he strangely spares the rich repast.

"What ails thee, Dervise? eat—dost thou suppose
This feast a Christian's? or my friends thy foes?
Why dost thou shun the salt? that sacred pledge,
Which, once partaken, blunts the sabre's edge,
Makes even contending tribes in peace unite,
And hated hosts seem brethren to the sight!"

"Salt seasons dainties—and my food is still
The humblest root, my drink the simplest rill;

* Coffee. † Pipe. ‡ Dancing-girls.

§ It has been objected that Conrad's entering disguised as a spy is out of nature;—perhaps so. I find something not unlike it in history.

"Anxious to explore with his own eyes the state of the Vandals, Majorian ventured, after disguising the color of his hair, to visit Carthage in the character of his own ambassador; and Genseric was afterwards mortified by the discovery that he had entertained and dismissed the Emperor of the Romans. Such an anecdote may be rejected as an improbable fiction; but it is a fiction which would not have been imagined unless in the life of a hero."—GIBBON, "Decline and Fall," vol. vi., p. 180.

And my stern vow and order's* laws oppose
To break or mingle bread with friends or foes;
It may seem strange—if there be aught to dread,
That peril rests upon my single head; [throne,
But for thy sway—nay more—thy Sultan's
I taste nor bread nor banquet—save alone;
Infringed our order's rule, the Prophet's rage
To Mecca's dome might bar my pilgrimage."

"Well—as thou wilt—ascetic as thou art—
One question answer; then in peace depart.
How many?—Ha! it cannot sure be day?
What star—what sun is bursting on the bay?
It shines a lake of fire!—away—away!
Ho! treachery! my guards! my scimitar!
The galleys feed the flames—and I afar!
Accursed Dervise!—these thy tidings—thou
Some villain spy—seize—cleave him—slay him now!"

Up rose the Dervise with that burst of light,
Nor less his change of form appall'd the sight;
Up rose that Dervise—not in saintly garb,
But like a warrior bounding on his barb,
Dash'd his high cap, and tore his robe away—
Shone his mail'd breast, and flash'd his sabre's ray! [plume,
His close but glittering casque, and sable
More glittering eye, and black brow's sabler gloom,
Glared on the Moslems' eyes some Afrit sprite,
Whose demon death-blow left no hope for fight.
The wild confusion, and the swarthy glow
Of flames on high and torches from below;
The shriek of terror, and the mingling yell—
For swords began to clash and shouts to swell—
Flung o'er that spot of earth the air of hell!
Distracted, to and fro, the flying slaves
Behold but bloody shore and fiery waves;
Nought heeded they the Pacha's angry cry,
They seize that Dervise!—seize on Zatanai!†
He saw their terror—check'd the first despair
That urged him but to stand and perish there,
Since far too early and too well obey'd,
The flame was kindled ere the signal made;
He saw their terror—from his baldric drew
His bugle—brief the blast—but shrilly blew:
'Tis answer'd—"Well ye speed, my gallant crew!
Why did I doubt their quickness or career,
And deem design had left me single here?"
Sweeps his long arm—that sabre's whirling
Sheds fast atonement for its first delay; [sway
Completes his fury what their fear begun,
And makes the many basely quail to one.
The cloven turbans o'er the chamber spread,
And scarce an arm dare rise to guard its head:
Even Seyd, convulsed, o'erwhelm'd with rage, surprise,
Retreats before him, though he still defies.
No craven he, and yet he dreads the blow,
So much Confusion magnifies his foe!
His blazing galleys still distract his sight,
He tore his beard, and foaming fled the fight;*
For now the pirates pass'd the Haram gate,
And burst within—and it were death to wait;
Where wild Amazement shrieking—kneeling—throws [flows!
The sword aside—in vain—the blood o'er-
The Corsairs pouring, haste to where within,
Invited Conrad's bugle, and the din
Of groaning victims, and wild cries for life,
Proclaim'd how well he did the work of strife.
They shout to find him grim and lonely there,
A glutted tiger mangling in his lair!
But short their greeting, shorter his reply—
"'Tis well—but Seyd escapes,—and he must die: [do—
Much hath been done, but more remains to
Their galleys blaze—why not their city too?"

V.

Quick at the word, they seized him each a torch,
And fire the dome from minaret to porch.
A stern delight was fix'd in Conrad's eye,
But sudden sunk—for on his ear the cry
Of women struck, and like the deadly knell
Knock'd at that heart unmoved by battle's yell.
"Oh! burst the Haram—wrong not on your lives
One female form; remember—*we* have wives.
On them such outrage Vengeance will repay;
Man is our foe, and such 'tis ours to slay:
But still we spared—must spare the weaker prey.
Oh! I forgot—but Heaven will not forgive
If at my word the helpless cease to live:
Follow who will—I go—we yet have time
Our souls to lighten of at least a crime." [door,
He climbs the crackling stair—he bursts the
Nor feels his feet glow scorching with the floor; [smoke,
His breath choked gasping with the volumed
But still from room to room his way he broke.
They search—they find—they save: with lusty arms
Each bears a prize of unregarded charms;
Calm their loud fears; sustain their sinking frames
With all the care defenceless beauty claims:
So well could Conrad tame their fiercest mood,
And check the very hands with gore imbued.
But who is she whom Conrad's arms convey
From reeking pile and combat's wreck away?
Who but the love of him he dooms to bleed?
The Haram queen—but still the slave of Seyd?

VI.

Brief time had Conrad now to greet Gulnare,†
Few words to reassure the trembling fair;

* The dervises are in colleges, and of different orders, as the monks.

† Satan.

* A common and not very novel effect of Mussulman anger. See "Prince Eugene's Memoirs," page 24. "The Seraskier received a wound on the thigh; he plucked up his beard by the roots, because he was obliged to quit the field."

† Gulnare, a female name. It means, literally, the flower of the pomegranate.

For in that pause compassion snatch'd from
The foe before retiring, fast and far, [war,
With wonder saw their footsteps unpursued,
First slowlier fled—then rallied—then with-
stood. [few,
This Seyd perceives, then first perceives how
Compared with his, the Corsair's roving crew,
And blushes o'er his error, as he eyes
The ruin wrought by panic and surprise.
Alla il Alla! Vengeance swells the cry—
Shame mounts to rage that must atone or die!
And flame for flame and blood for blood must
tell,
The tide of triumph ebbs that flow'd too well—
When wrath returns to renovated strife, [life.
And those who fought for conquest strike for
Conrad beheld the danger—he beheld [pell'd!
His followers faint by freshening foes re-
"One effort—one—to break the circling host!"
They form—unite—charge—waver—all is
lost!
Within a narrower ring compress'd, beset,
Hopeless, not heartless, strive and struggle
yet—
Ah! now they fight in firmest file no more,
Hemm'd in—cut off—cleft down—and tramp-
led o'er,
But each strikes singly, silently, and home,
And sinks outwearied rather than o'ercome,
His last faint quittance rendering with his
breath,
Till the blade glimmers in the grasp of death!

VII.

But first, ere came the rallying host to blows,
And rank to rank and hand to hand oppose,
Gulnare and all her Haram handmaids freed,
Safe in the dome of one who held their creed,
By Conrad's mandate safely were bestow'd,
And dried those tears for life and fame that
flow'd: [nare,
And when that dark-eyed lady, young Gul-
Recall'd those thoughts late wandering in de-
Much did she marvel o'er the courtesy [spair,
That smooth'd his accents; soften'd in his eye:
'Twas strange—*that* robber thus with gore
bedew'd [mood.
Seem'd gentler then than Seyd in fondest
The Pacha woo'd as if he deem'd the slave
Must seem delighted with the heart he gave:
The Corsair vow'd protection, sooth'd affright,
As if his homage were a woman's right. [vain:
"The wish is wrong—nay, worse for female—
Yet much I long to view that chief again;
If but to thank for, what my fear forgot,
The life my loving lord remember'd not!"

VIII.

And him she saw where thickest carnage
spread,
But gather'd breathing from the happier dead;
Far from his band, and battling with a host
That deem right dearly won the field he lost,
Fell'd—bleeding—baffled of the death he
sought,
And snatch'd to expiate all the ills he wrought;
Preserved to linger and to live in vain, [pain,
While Vengeance ponder'd o'er new plans of
And stanch'd the blood she saves to shed
again—
But drop by drop, for Seyd's unglutted eye
Would doom him ever dying—ne'er to die!
Can this be he? triumphant late she saw,
When his red hand's wild gesture waved, a law!
'Tis he indeed—disarm'd, but undeprest,
His sole regret the life he still possest;
His wounds too slight, though taken with that
will, [could kill.
Which would have kiss'd the hand that then
Oh, were there none, of all the many given,
To send his soul—he scarcely ask'd to heaven!
Must he alone of all retain his breath, [death?
Who more than all had striven and struck for
He deeply felt—what mortal hearts must feel,
When thus reversed on faithless Fortune's
wheel,
For crimes committed, and the victor's threat
Of lingering tortures to repay the debt,
He deeply, darkly felt; but evil pride
That led to perpetrate, now nerves to hide.
Still in his stern and self-collected mien
A conqueror's more than captive's air is seen,
Though faint with wasting toil and stiffening
wound,
But few that saw—so calmly gazed around:
Though the far-shouting of the distant crowd,
Their tremors o'er, rose insolently loud,
The better warriors who beheld him near,
Insulted not the foe who taught them fear;
And the grim guards that to his durance led,
In silence eyed him with a secret dread.

IX.

The Leech was sent—but not in mercy—there,
To note how much the life yet left could bear;
He found enough to load with heaviest chain,
And promise feeling for the wrench of pain:
To-morrow—yea—to-morrow's evening sun
Will sinking see impalement's pangs begun,
And rising with the wonted blush of morn
Behold how well or ill those pangs are borne.
Of torments this the longest and the worst,
Which adds all other agony to thirst,
That day by day death still forbears to slake,
While famish'd vultures flit around the stake.
"Oh! water—water!"—smiling Hate denies
The victim's prayer; for if he drinks, he dies.
This was his doom;—the Leech, the guard,
were gone,
And left proud Conrad fetter'd and alone.

X.

'Twere vain to paint to what his feelings
grew—
It even were doubtful if their victim knew.
There is a war, a chaos of the mind,
When all its elements convulsed, combined,
Lie dark and jarring with perturbed force,
And gnashing with impenitent Remorse—
That juggling fiend—who never spake be-
fore— [o'er.
But cries, "I warn'd thee!" when the deed is

Vain voice! the spirit burning but unbent,
May writhe—rebel—the weak alone repent!
Even in that lonely hour when most it feels,
And to itself, all—all that self reveals,
No single passion, and no ruling thought
That leaves the rest, as once, unseen, unsought;
But the wild prospect when the soul reviews,
All rushing through their thousand avenues.
Ambition's dreams expiring, love's regret,
Endanger'd glory, life itself beset;
The joy untasted, the contempt or hate [fate;
'Gainst those who fain would triumph in our
The hopeless past, the hasting future driven
Too quickly on to guess of hell or heaven;
Deeds, thoughts, and words, perhaps remember'd not
So keenly till that hour, but ne'er forgot;
Things light or lovely in their acted time,
But now to stern reflection each a crime;
The withering sense of evil unreveal'd,
Not cankering less because the more conceal'd—
All, in a word, from which all eyes must start,
That opening sepulchre—the naked heart
Bares with its buried woes, till Pride awake,
To snatch the mirror from the soul—and break.
Ay, Pride can veil, and Courage brave it all,
All—all—before—beyond—the deadliest fall.
Each hath some fear, and he who least betrays,
The only hypocrite deserving praise: [flies;
Not the loud recreant wretch who boasts and
But he who looks on death—and silent dies:
So steel'd by pondering o'er his far career,
He half-way meets him should he menace near!

XI.

In the high chamber of his highest tower
Sate Conrad, fetter'd in the Pacha's power.
His palace perish'd in the flame—this fort
Contain'd at once his captive and his court.
Not much could Conrad of his sentence blame,
His foe, if vanquish'd, had but shared the same:—
Alone he sate—in solitude had scann'd
His guilty bosom, but that breast he mann'd;
One thought alone he could not—dared not meet—
"Oh, how these tidings will Medora greet?"
Then—only then—his clanking hands he raised,
And strain'd with rage the chain on which he gazed; [relief,
But soon he found—or feign'd—or dream'd
And smiled in self-derision of his grief.
"And now come torture when it will—or may,
More need of rest to nerve me for the day!"
This said, with languor to his mat he crept,
And, whatsoe'er his visions, quickly slept.
'Twas hardly midnight when that fray begun,
For Conrad's plans matured, at once were done:
And Havoc loathes so much the waste of time,
She scarce had left an uncommitted crime.
One hour beheld him since the tide he stemm'd— [condemn'd—
Disguised, discover'd,—conquering,—ta'en,—
A chief on land, an outlaw on the deep—
Destroying,—saving,—prison'd,—and asleep!

XII.

He slept in calmest seeming, for his breath
Was hush'd so deep—Ah! happy if in death!
He slept—Who o'er his placid slumber bends?
His foes are gone, and here he hath no friends;
Is it some seraph sent to grant him grace?
No, 'tis an earthly form with heavenly face!
Its white arm raised a lamp—yet gently hid,
Lest the ray flash abruptly on the lid
Of that closed eye, which opens but to pain,
And once unclosed—but once may close again.
That form with eye so dark, and cheek so fair,
And auburn waves of gemm'd and braided hair;
With shape of fairy lightness—naked foot,
That shines like snow, and falls on earth as mute— [it there?
Through guards and dunnest night how came
Ah! rather ask what will not woman dare?
Whom youth and pity lead like thee, Gulnare!
She could not sleep—and while the Pacha's rest
In muttering dreams yet saw his pirate-guest,
She left his side—his signet-ring she bore,
Which oft in sport adorn'd her hand before—
And with it, scarcely question'd, won her way
Through drowsy guards that must that sign obey, [blows,
Worn out with toil, and tired with changing
Their eyes had envied Conrad his repose;
And chill and nodding at the turret door,
They stretch their listless limbs, and watch no more:
Just raised their heads to hail the signet-ring,
Nor ask or what or who the sign may bring.

XIII.

She gazed in wonder: "Can he calmly sleep,
While other eyes his fall or ravage weep?
And mine in restlessness are wandering here— [dear?
What sudden spell hath made this man so
True—'tis to him my life, and more, I owe,
And me and mine he spared from worse than woe; [breaks—
'Tis late to think—but soft—his slumber
How heavily he sighs!—he starts—awakes!"

He raised his head;—and dazzled with the light,
His eye seemed dubious if it saw aright:
He moved his hand—the grating of his chain
Too harshly told him that he lived again.
"What is that form? if not a shape of air,
Methinks, my jailor's face shows wondrous fair!"

"Pirate! thou know'st me not:—but I am one,
Grateful for deeds thou hast too rarely done:
Look on me—and remember her thy hand
Snatch'd from the flames, and thy more fearful band. [why—
I come through darkness—and I scarce know

Yet not to hurt—I would not see thee die."
"If so, kind lady! thine the only eye
That would not here in that gay hope delight:
Theirs is the chance—and let them use their right.
But still I thank their courtesy or thine,
That would confess me at so fair a shrine!"

Strange though it seem,—yet with extremest grief
Is link'd a mirth—it doth not bring relief—
That playfulness of Sorrow ne'er beguiles,
And smiles in bitterness—but still it smiles;
And sometimes with the wisest and the best,
Till even the scaffold* echoes with their jest!
Yet not the joy to which it seems akin—
It may deceive all hearts, save that within.
Whate'er it was that flash'd on Conrad, now
A laughing wildness half unbent his brow:
And these his accents had a sound of mirth,
As if the last he could enjoy on earth;
Yet 'gainst his nature—for through that short life, [strife.
Few thoughts had he to spare from gloom and

XIV.

"Corsair! thy doom is named—but I have
To soothe the Pacha in his weaker hour. [power
Thee would I spare—nay more—would save thee now, [allow;
But this—time—hope—nor even thy strength
But all I can, I will: at least delay
The sentence that remits thee scarce a day.
More now were ruin—even thyself were loth
The vain attempt should bring but doom to both."

"Yes!—loth indeed:—my soul is nerved to all,
Or fall'n too low to fear a further fall:
Tempt not thyself with peril—me with hope
Of flight from foes with whom I could not
Unfit to vanquish—shall I meanly fly, [cope:
The one of all my band that would not die?
Yet there is one—to whom my memory clings,
Till to these eyes her own wild softness springs.
My sole resources in the path I trod [God!
Were these—my bark, my sword, my love, my
The last I left in youth—He leaves me now—
And Man but works His will to lay me low.
I have no thought to mock His throne with prayer
Wrung from the coward crouching of despair;
It is enough—I breathe—and I can bear.
My sword is shaken from the worthless hand
That might have better kept so true a brand;
My bark is sunk or captive—but my love—
For her in sooth my voice would mount above;
Oh! she is all that still to earth can bind—
And this will break a heart so more than kind,
And blight a form—till thine appear'd, Gulnare,
Mine eye ne'er ask'd if others were so fair."

"Thou lov'st another then?—but what to me
Is this?—'tis nothing—nothing e'er can be:
But yet—thou lov'st—and—oh! I envy those
Whose hearts on hearts as faithful can repose, [thought
Who never feel the void—the wandering
That sighs o'er visions—such as mine hath wrought."

"Lady, methought thy love was his, for whom
This arm redeem'd thee from a fiery tomb."

"My love stern Seyd's! Oh—No—No—not my love: [strove
Yet much this heart, that strives no more, once
To meet his passion—but it would not be.
I felt—I feel—love dwells with—with the free.
I am a slave, a favor'd slave at best,
To share his splendor, and seem very blest!
Oft must my soul the question undergo,
Of—'Dost thou love?' and burn to answer, 'No!'
Oh! hard it is that fondness to sustain,
And struggle not to feel averse in vain;
But harder still the heart's recoil to bear,
And hide from one—perhaps another there.
He takes the hand I give not—nor withhold—
Its pulse nor check'd, nor quicken'd—calmly cold:
And when resign'd, it drops a lifeless weight
From one I never loved enough to hate.
No warmth these lips return by his imprest,
And chill'd remembrance shudders o'er the rest.
Yes—had I ever proved that passion's zeal,
The change to hatred were at least to feel;
But still he goes unmourn'd, returns unsought, [thought.
And oft when present—absent from my
Or when reflection comes—and come it must—
I fear that henceforth 'twill but bring disgust;
I am his slave—but, in despite of pride,
'Twere worse than bondage to become his bride. [cease:
Oh! that this dotage of his breast would
Or seek another and give mine release—
But yesterday—I could have said, to peace!
Yes—if unwonted fondness now I feign,
Remember, captive, 'tis to break thy chain;
Repay the life that to thy hand I owe;
To give thee back to all endear'd below,
Who share such love as I can never know.
Farewell—morn breaks and I must now away;
'Twill cost me dear—but dread no death to-day!"

XV.

She press'd his fetter'd fingers to her heart,
And bow'd her head, and turn'd her to depart;
And noiseless as a lovely dream is gone.
And was she here? and is he now alone?

* In Sir Thomas More, for instance, on the scaffold, and Anne Boleyn in the Tower, when, grasping her neck, she remarked that it "was too slender to trouble the headsman much." During one part of the French Revolution, it became a fashion to leave some "mot" as a legacy; and the quantity of facetious last words spoken during that period would form a melancholy jest-book of a considerable size.

What gem hath dropp'd and sparkles o'er his chain?
The tear most sacred, shed for others' pain,
That starts at once—bright—pure—from Pity's mine,
Already polish'd by the hand divine!

Oh! too convincing—dangerously dear—
In woman's eye the unanswerable tear!
That weapon of her weakness she can wield,
To save, subdue—at once her spear and shield:
Avoid it—Virtue ebbs and Wisdom errs,
Too fondly gazing on that grief of hers!
What lost a world, and bade a hero fly?
The timid tear in Cleopatra's eye.
Yet be the soft triumvir's fault forgiven;
By this—how many lose not earth—but heaven!
Consign their souls to man's eternal foe,
And seal their own to spare some wanton's woe!

XVI.

'Tis morn—and o'er his alter'd features play
The beams—without the hope of yesterday.
What shall he be ere night? perchance a thing
O'er which the raven flaps her funeral wing:
By his closed eye unheeded and unfelt,
While sets that sun, and dews of evening melt
Chill, wet, and misty round each stiffen'd limb,
Refreshing earth—reviving all but him!

CANTO THE THIRD.

"Come vedi—ancor non m'abbandona."—DANTE.

I.

Slow sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,* [play,
Along Morea's hills the setting sun;
Not, as in Northern climes, obscurely bright,
But one unclouded blaze of living light!
O'er the hush'd deep the yellow beam he throws, [glows.
Gilds the green wave, that trembles as it
On cold Ægina's rock, and Idra's Isle, [set,
The god of gladness sheds his parting smile;
O'er his own regions lingering, loves to shine,
Though there his altars are no more divine.
Descending fast the mountain shadows kiss
Thy glorious gulf, unconquer'd Salamis!
Their azure arches through the long expanse
More deeply purpled meet his mellowing glance, [driven,
And tenderest tints, along their summits
Mark his gay course, and own the hues of heaven;
Till, darkly shaded from the land and deep,
Behind his Delphian cliff he sinks to sleep.

On such an eve his palest beam he cast,
When—Athens! here thy Wisest look'd his last.
How watch'd thy better sons his farewell ray,
That clos'd their murder'd sage's† latest day!
Not yet—not yet—Sol pauses on the hill—
The precious hour of parting lingers still;
But sad his light to agonizing eyes,
And dark the mountain's once delightful dyes:
Gloom o'er the lovely land he seem'd to pour,
The land where Phœbus never frown'd before;
But ere he sank below Cithæron's head,
The cup of woe was quaff'd—the spirit fled,
The soul of him who scorn'd to fear or fly—
Who lived and died, as none can live or die!

But lo! from high Hymettus to the plain,
The queen of night asserts her silent reign.*
No murky vapor, herald of the storm,
Hides her fair face, nor girds her glowing form: [play,
With cornice glimmering as the moonbeams
There the white column greets her grateful ray, [set,
And, bright around with quivering beams beHer emblem sparkles o'er the minaret:
The groves of olive scatter'd dark and wide
Where meek Cephisus pours his scanty tide,
The cypress saddening by the sacred mosque,
The gleaming turret of the gay kiosk,†
And, dun and sombre 'mid the holy calm,
Near Theseus' fane yon solitary palm,
All tinged with varied hues, arrest the eye—
And dull were his that pass'd them heedless by.

Again the Ægean, heard no more afar,
Lulls his chafed breast from elemental war;
Again his waves in milder tints unfold
Their long array of sapphire and of gold,
Mix'd with the shades of many a distant isle,
That frown—where gentler ocean seems to smile.

II.

Not now my theme—why turn my thoughts to thee?
Oh! who can look along thy native sea,
Nor dwell upon thy name, whate'er the tale,
So much its magic must o'er all prevail?
Who that beheld that Sun upon thee set,
Fair Athens! could thine evening face forget?
Not he—whose heart nor time nor distance frees,
Spell-bound within the clustering Cyclades!
Nor seems this homage foreign to his strain,

* The opening lines, as far as section ii., have, perhaps, little business here, and were annexed to an unpublished (though printed) poem, ["The Curse of Minerva"]; but they were written on the spot, in the Spring of 1811, and—I scarce know why—the reader must excuse their appearance here—if he can.

† Socrates drank the hemlock a short time before sunset (the hour of execution), notwithstanding the entreaties of his disciples to wait till the sun went down.

* The twilight in Greece is much shorter than in our own country; the days in winter are longer, but summer of less duration.

† The kiosk is a Turkish summer house; the palm is without the present walls of Athens, not far from the temple of Theseus, between which and the tree the wall intervenes. Cephisus' stream is indeed scanty, and Ilissus has no stream at all.

His Corsair's isle was once thine own domain—
Would that with freedom it were thine again!

III.

The Sun hath sunk—and, darker than the night,
Sinks with its beam upon the beacon height
Medora's heart—the third day's come and gone— [one!
With it he comes not—sends not—faithless
The wind was fair though light; and storms were none.
Last eve Anselmo's bark return'd, and yet
His only tidings that they had not met! [tale
Though wild, as now, far different were the
Had Conrad waited for that single sail.

The night-breeze freshens—she that day had pass'd
In watching all that Hope proclaim'd a mast;
Sadly she sate on high—Impatience bore
At last her footsteps to the midnight shore,
And there she wander'd, heedless of the spray
That dash'd her garment oft, and warn'd away:
She saw not, felt not this—nor dared depart,
Nor deem'd it cold—her chill was at her heart;
Till grew such certainty from that suspense—
His very sight had shock'd from life or sense!

It came at last—a sad and shatter'd boat,
Whose inmates first beheld whom first they sought; [few—
Some bleeding—all most wretched—these the
Scarce knew they how escaped—*this* all they knew.
In silence, darkling, each appear'd to wait
His fellow's mournful guess at Conrad's fate:
Something they would have said; but seem'd
To trust their accents to Medora's ear. [to fear
She saw at once, yet sank not—trembled not—
Beneath that grief, that loneliness of lot,
Within that meek fair form, were feelings high,
That deem'd not, till they found their energy.

While yet was hope, they soften'd, flutter'd, wept—
All lost—that softness died not—but it slept;
And o'er its slumber rose that Strength which said, [dread."
"With nothing left to love, there's nought to
'Tis more than nature's—like the burning might
Delirium gathers from the fever's height.

"Silent you stand—nor would I hear you tell
What—speak not—breathe not—for I know it
Yet would I ask—almost my lip denies [well—
The—quick your answer—tell me where he lies."

"Lady! we know not—scarce with life we fled;
But here is one denies that he is dead:
He saw him bound; and bleeding—but alive."

She heard no further—'twas in vain to strive—
So throbb'd each vein—each thought—till then withstood;
Her own dark soul—these words at once subdued:
She totters—falls—and senseless had the wave
Perchance but snatch'd her from another grave; [ing eyes,
But that with hands though rude, yet weep-
They yield such aid as Pity's haste supplies:
Dash o'er her death-like cheek the ocean dew,
Raise—fan—sustain—till life returns anew;
Awake her handmaids, with the matrons leave
That fainting form o'er which they gaze and grieve;
Then seek Anselmo's cavern, to report [tale too tedious—when the triumph short.

IV.

In that wild council, words wax'd warm and strange, [venge;
With thoughts of ransom, rescue, and re-
All, save repose or flight: still lingering there
Breathed Conrad's spirit, and forbade despair:
Whate'er his fate—the breasts he form'd and led,
Will save him living, or appease him dead.
Woe to his foes! there yet survive a few,
Whose deeds are daring as their hearts are true.

V.

Within the Haram's secret chamber sate [fate,
Stern Seyd, still pondering o'er his Captive's
His thoughts on love and hate alternate dwell,
Now with Gulnare, and now in Conrad's cell;
Here at his feet the lovely slave reclined
Surveys his brow—would soothe his gloom of mind; [eye
While many an anxious glance her large dark
Sends in its idle search for sympathy,
His only bends in seeming o'er his beads,*
But inly views his victim as he bleeds.
"Pacha! the day is thine; and on thy crest
Sits Triumph—Conrad taken—fall'n the rest!
His doom is fix'd—he dies: and well his fate
Was earn'd—yet much too worthless for thy hate;
Methinks, a short release, for ransom told
With all his treasure, not unwisely sold:
Report speaks largely of his pirate-hoard—
Would that of this my Pacha were the lord!
While baffled, weaken'd by this fatal fray—
Watch'd—follow'd—he were then an easier prey;
But once cut off—the remnant of his band
Embark their wealth, and seek a safer strand."

"Gulnare!—if for each drop of blood a gem
Were offer'd rich as Stamboul's diadem;
If for each hair of his a massy mine
Of virgin ore should supplicating shine;
If all our Arab tales divulge or dream [deem!
Of wealth were here—that gold should not re-
It had not now redeem'd a single hour
But that I know him fetter'd in my power;
And, thirsting for revenge, I ponder still
On pangs that longest rack, and latest kill."

* The Comboloio, or Mahometan rosary. The beads are in number ninety-nine.

"Nay, Seyd!—I seek not to restrain thy rage,
Too justly moved for mercy to assuage;
My thoughts were only to secure for thee
His riches—thus released, he were not free;
Disabled, shorn of half his might and band,
His capture could but wait thy first command."

"His capture *could!*—and shall I then resign
One day to him—the wretch already mine?
Release my foe!—at whose remonstrance?—
Fair suitor!—to thy virtuous gratitude, [thine!
That thus repays this Giaour's relenting mood,
Which thee and thine alone of all could spare,
No doubt—regardless if the prize were fair,
My thanks and praise alike are due—now hear!
I have a counsel for thy gentler ear:
I do mistrust thee, woman! and each word
Of thine stamps truth on all Suspicion heard.
Borne in his arms through fire from yon Serai—
Say, wert thou lingering there with him to fly?
Thou need'st not answer—thy confession speaks,
Already reddening on thy guilty cheeks;
Then, lovely dame, bethink thee, and beware!
'Tis not *his* life alone may claim such care!
Another word and—nay—I need no more.
Accursed was the moment when he bore [no—
Thee from the flames, which better far—but
I then had mourn'd thee with a lover's woe—
Now, 'tis thy lord that warns—deceitful thing!
Know'st thou that I can clip thy wanton wing?
In words alone I am not wont to chafe:
Look to thyself, nor deem thy falsehood safe!"
He rose—and slowly, sternly thence withdrew,
Rage in his eye and threats in his adieu:
Ah! little reck'd that chief of womanhood—
Which frowns ne'er quell'd, nor menaces subdued;
And little deem'd he what thy heart, Gulnare,
When soft could feel, and when incensed could dare.
His doubts appear'd to wrong—nor yet she knew [grew—
How deep the root from whence compassion
She was a slave—from such may captives claim
A fellow-feeling, differing but in name;
Still half-unconscious—heedless of his wrath,
Again she ventured on the dangerous path,
Again his rage repell'd—until arose [woes!
That strife of thought, the source of woman's

VI.

Meanwhile long, anxious, weary, still the same
Roll'd day and night—his soul could terror tame—
This fearful interval of doubt and dread,
When every hour might doom him worse than dead,
When every step that echo'd by the gate [await;
Might entering lead where axe and stake
When every voice that grated on his ear
Might be the last that he could ever hear;
Could terror tame—that spirit stern and high
Had proved unwilling as unfit to die;
'Twas worn—perhaps decay'd—yet silent bore
That conflict deadlier far than all before;
The heat of fight, the hurry of the gale, [quail;
Leave scarce one thought inert enough to
But bound and fix'd in fetter'd solitude,
To pine, the prey of every changing mood;
To gaze on thine own heart, and meditate
Irrevocable faults, and coming fate—
Too late the last to shun—the first to mend—
To count the hours that struggle to thine end,
With not a friend to animate, and tell
To other ears that death became thee well;
Around thee foes to forge the ready lie,
And blot life's latest scene with calumny;
Before thee tortures, which the soul can dare,
Yet doubts how well the shrinking flesh may bear;
But deeply feels a single cry would shame,
To valor's praise thy last and dearest claim;
The life thou leav'st below denied above
By kind monopolists of heavenly love;
And more than doubtful paradise—thy heaven
Of earthly hope—thy loved one from thee riven. [sustain,
Such were the thoughts that outlaw must
And govern pangs surpassing mortal pain:
And those sustain'd he—boots it well or ill?
Since not to sink beneath, is something still!

VII.

The first day pass'd—he saw not her—Gulnare— [there;
The second—third—and still she came not
But what her words avouch'd, her charms had done,
Or else he had not seen another sun.
The fourth day roll'd along, and with the night
Came storm and darkness in their mingling might:
Oh! how he listen'd to the rushing deep,
That ne'er till now so broke upon his sleep;
And his wild spirit wilder wishes sent,
Roused by the roar of his own element!
Oft had he ridden on that winged wave,
And loved its roughness for the speed it gave;
And now its dashing echo'd on his ear,
A long known voice—alas, too vainly near!
Loud sung the wind above; and, doubly loud,
Shook o'er his turret cell the thunder-cloud;
And flash'd the lightning by the latticed bar,
To him more genial than the midnight star:
Close to the glimmering grate he dragg'd his chain,
And hoped *that* peril might not prove in vain.
He raised his iron hand to Heaven, and pray'd
One pitying flash to mar the form it made:
His steel and impious prayer attract alike—
The storm roll'd onward, and disdain'd to strike;
Its peal wax'd fainter—ceased—he felt alone,
As if some faithless friend had spurn'd his groan.

VIII.

The midnight pass'd, and to the massy door
A light step came—it paused—it moved once more;
Slow turns the grating bolt and sullen key:
'Tis as his heart foreboded—that fair she!

Whate'er her sins, to him a guardian saint,
And beauteous still as hermit's hope can paint;
Yet changed since last within that cell she came, [frame:
More pale her cheek, more tremulous her
On him she cast her dark and hurried eye,
Which spoke before her accents—"Thou must die!
Yes, thou must die—there is but one resource,
The last—the worst—if torture were not worse."

"Lady! I look to none—my lips proclaim
What last proclaim'd they—Conrad still the same: [spare,
Why shouldst thou seek an outlaw's life to
And change the sentence I deserve to bear?
Well have I earn'd—nor here alone—the meed
Of Seyd's revenge, by many a lawless deed."

"Why should I seek? because—oh, didst thou not
Redeem my life from worse than slavery's lot?
Why should I seek?—hath misery made thee blind
To the fond workings of a woman's mind?
And must I say?—albeit my heart rebel[tell—
With all that woman feels, but should not
Because—despite thy crimes—that heart is moved: [den'd—loved.
It fear'd thee—thank'd thee—pitied—mad-
Reply not, tell not thou thy tale again,
Thou lov'st another—and I love in vain;[fair,
Though fond as mine her bosom, form more
I rush through peril which she would not dare.
If that thy heart to hers were truly dear,
Were I thine own thou wert not lonely here:
An outlaw's spouse—and leave her lord to roam!
What hath such gentle dame to do with home?
But speak not now—o'er thine and o'er my head
Hangs the keen sabre by a single thread!
If thou hast courage still, and wouldst be free,
Receive this poniard—rise and follow me!"

"Ay—in my chains! my steps will gently tread, [head!
With these adornments, o'er each slumbering
Thou hast forgot—is this a garb for flight?
Or is that instrument more fit for fight?"

"Misdoubting Corsair! I have gain'd the guard,
Ripe for revolt, and greedy for reward.
A single word of mine removes that chain:
Without some aid how here could I remain?
Well, since we met, hath sped my busy time,
If in aught evil, for thy sake the crime;
The crime—'tis none to punish those of Seyd.
That hated tyrant, Conrad—he must bleed!
I see thee shudder, but my soul is changed—
Wrong'd—spurn'd—reviled—and it shall be avenged—
Accused of what till now my heart disdain'd—
Too faithful, though to bitter bondage chain'd.
Yes, smile!—but he had little cause to sneer,
I was not treacherous then, nor thou too dear:
But he has said it—and the jealous well—
Those tyrants, teasing, tempting to rebel—
Deserve the fate their fretting lips foretell.
I never loved—he bought me—somewhat high—
Since with me came a heart he could not buy.
I was a slave unmurmuring; he hath said,
But for his rescue I with thee had fled. [rue,
'Twas false thou know'st—but let such augurs
Their words are omens Insult renders true.
Nor was thy respite granted to my prayer;
This fleeting grace was only to prepare
New torments for thy life, and my despair.
Mine too he threatens; but his dotage still
Would fain reserve me for his lordly will:
When wearier of these fleeting charms and me, [sea.
There yawns the sack—and yonder rolls the
What, am I then a toy for dotard's play,
To wear but till the gilding frets away?
I saw thee—loved thee—owed thee all—would
If but to show how grateful is a slave. [save,
But had he not thus menaced fame and life
(And well he keeps his oaths pronounced in strife),
I still had saved thee—but the Pacha spared.
Now I am all thine own, for all prepared:
Thou lov'st me not—nor know'st—or but the worst.
Alas! *this* love—*that* hatred are the first—
Oh! couldst thou prove my truth, thou wouldst not start,
Nor fear the fire that lights an Eastern heart;
'Tis now the beacon of thy safety—now
It points within the port a Mainote prow:
But in one chamber, where our path must lead, [sor Seyd!"
There sleeps—he must not wake—the oppres-

"Gulnare—Gulnare—I never felt till now
My abject fortune, wither'd fame, so low:
Seyd is mine enemy; had swept my band
From earth with ruthless but with open hand;
And therefore came I, in my bark of war,
To smite the smiter with the scimitar;
Such is my weapon—not the secret knife—
Who spares a woman's seeks not slumber's life.
Thine saved I gladly, Lady, not for this—
Let me not deem that mercy shown amiss.
Now fare thee well—more peace be with thy breast!
Night wears apace—my last of earthly rest!"

"Rest! rest! by sunrise must thy sinews shake,
And thy limbs writhe around the ready stake.
I heard the order—saw—I will not see—
If thou wilt perish I will fall with thee.
My life, my love, my hatred—all below
Are on this cast—Corsair! 'tis but a blow!
Without it flight were idle—how evade
His sure pursuit? my wrongs too unrepaid,
My youth disgraced—the long, long wasted years,
One blow shall cancel with our future fears;

But since the dagger suits thee less than brand,
I'll try the firmness of a female hand [o'er—
The guards are gain'd—one moment all were
Corsair! we meet in safety or no more;
If errs my feeble hand, the morning cloud
Will hover o'er thy scaffold, and my shroud."

IX.

She turn'd, and vanish'd ere he could reply,
But his glance follow'd far with eager eye;
And gathering, as he could, the links that bound [sound,
His form, to curl their length, and curb their
Since bar and bolt no more his steps preclude,
He, fast as fetter'd limbs allow, pursued.
'Twas dark and winding, and he knew not where [there;
That passage led; nor lamp nor guard was
He sees a dusky glimmering—shall he seek
Or shun that ray so indistinct and weak?
Chance guides his steps—a freshness seems to bear
Full on his brow, as if from morning air;
He reach'd an open gallery—on his eye [sky:
Gleam'd the last star of night, the clearing
Yet scarcely heeded these—another light
From a lone chamber struck upon his sight.
Towards it he moved; a scarcely closing door
Reveal'd the ray within, but nothing more.
With hasty step a figure outward pass'd,
Then paused—and turn'd—and paused—'tis She at last!
No poniard in that hand, nor sign of ill—
"Thanks to that softening heart, she could not kill!"
Again he look'd, the wildness of her eye
Starts from the day abrupt and fearfully.
She stopp'd—threw back her dark far-floating hair,
That nearly veil'd her face and bosom fair,
As if she late had bent her leaning head
Above some object of her doubt or dread.
They meet—upon her brow—unknown—forgot— [spot—
Her hurrying hand had left—'twas but a
Its hue was all he saw, and scarce withstood—
Oh! slight but certain pledge of crime—'tis blood!

X.

He had seen battle—he had brooded lone
O'er promised pangs to sentenced guilt foreshown; [chain
He had been tempted,—chasten'd,—and the
Yet on his arms might ever there remain;
But ne'er from strife, captivity, remorse—
From all his feelings in their inmost force—
So thrill'd, so shudder'd every creeping vein,
As now they froze before that purple stain.
That spot of blood, that light but guilty streak,
Had banish'd all the beauty from her cheek!
Blood he had view'd—could view unmov'd—but then
It flow'd in combat, or was shed by men!

XI.

"'Tis done—he nearly waked—but it is done.
Corsair! he perish'd—thou art dearly won.
All words would now be vain—away—away—
Our bark is tossing—'tis already day.
The few gain'd over, now are wholly mine,
And these thy yet surviving band shall join;
Anon my voice shall vindicate my hand,
When once our sail forsakes this hated strand."

XII.

She clapp'd her hands and through the gallery pour, [Moor;
Equipp'd for flight, her vassals—Greek and
Silent but quick they stoop, his chains unbind; [wind!
Once more his limbs are free as mountain
But on his heavy heart such sadness sate,
As if they there transferr'd that iron weight.
No words are utter'd—at her sign, a door
Reveals the secret passage to the shore;
The city lies behind—they speed, they reach
The glad waves dancing on the yellow beach;
And Conrad following, at her beck, obey'd,
Nor cared he now if rescued or betray'd;
Resistance were as useless as if Seyd
Yet lived to view the doom his ire decreed.

XII.

Embark'd, the sail unfurl'd, the light breeze blew—
How much had Conrad's memory to review!
Sunk he in Contemplation, till the cape
Where last he anchor'd rear'd its giant shape.
Ah!—since that fatal night, though brief the time,
Had swept an age of terror, grief, and crime.
As its far shadow frown'd above the mast,
He veil'd his face, and sorrow'd as he pass'd;
He thought of all—Gonsalvo and his band,
His fleeting triumph and his failing hand;
He thought on her afar, his lonely bride:
He turn'd and saw—Gulnare, the homicide!

XIV.

She watch'd his features till she could not bear
Their freezing aspect and averted air.
And that strange fierceness foreign to her eye,
Fell quench'd in tears, too late to shed or dry.
She knelt beside him, and his hand she press'd,
"Thou may'st forgive though Allah's self detest;
But for that deed of darkness, what wert thou?
Reproach me—but not yet—O! spare me *now!*
I am not what I seem—this fearful night
My brain bewilder'd—do not madden quite!
If I had never loved—though less my guilt,
Thou hadst not lived to—hate me—if thou wilt."

XV.

She wrongs his thoughts, they more himself upbraid [made:
Than her, though undesign'd, the wretch he
But speechless all, deep, dark, and unexprest,
They bleed within that silent cell—his breast.

Still onward, fair the breeze, nor rough the surge,
The blue waves sport around the stern they urge;
Far on the horizon's verge appears a speck,
A spot—a mast—a sail—an armed deck!
Their little bark her men of watch descry,
And ampler canvas woos the wind from high;
She bears her down majestically near,
Speed on her prow, and terror in her tier;
A flash is seen—the ball beyond their bow
Booms harmless, hissing to the deep below.
Up rose keen Conrad from his silent trance,
A long, long absent gladness in his glance:—
"'Tis mine—my blood-red flag! again—again—
I am not all deserted on the main!" [again—
They own the signal, answer to the hail,
Hoist out the boat at once, and slacken sail.
"'Tis Conrad! Conrad!" shouting from the deck,
Command nor duty could their transport check!
With light alacrity and gaze of pride,
They view him mount once more his vessel's side;
A smile relaxing in each rugged face,
Their arms can scarce forbear a rough embrace.
He, half forgetting danger and defeat,
Returns their greeting as a chief may greet,
Wrings with a cordial grasp Anselmo's hand,
And feels he yet can conquer and command!

XVI.

These greetings o'er, the feelings that o'erflow;
Yet grieve to win him back without a blow;
They sail'd prepared for vengeance—had they known
A woman's hand secured that deed her own,
She were their queen—less scrupulous are they
Than haughty Conrad how they win their way.
With many an asking smile, and wondering stare,
They whisper round, and gaze upon Gulnare;
And her, at once above—beneath her sex,
Whom blood appall'd not, their regards perplex.
To Conrad turns her faint imploring eye,
She drops her veil, and stands in silence by;
Her arms are meekly folded on that breast,
Which—Conrad safe—to fate resign'd the rest.
Though worse than frenzy could that bosom fill,
Extreme in love or hate, in good or ill,
The worst of crimes had left her woman still.

XVII.

This Conrad mark'd and felt—ah! could he less?
Hate of that deed—but grief for her distress;
What she has done no tears can wash away,
And Heaven must punish on its angry day:
But—it was done: he knew whate'er her guilt,
For him that poniard smote, that blood was spilt;
And he was free!—and she for him had given
Her all on earth, and more than all in heaven!
And now he turn'd him to that dark-eyed slave,
Whose brow was bow'd beneath the glance he gave,
Who now seem'd changed and humbled, faint and meek,
But varying of the color of her cheek
To deeper shades of paleness—all its red
That fearful spot which stain'd it from the dead! [late—
He took that hand—it trembled—now too
So soft in love, so wildly nerved in hate;
He clasp'd that hand—it trembled—and his own
Had lost its firmness, and his voice its tone.
"Gulnare!"—but she replied not—"dear Gulnare!"
She raised her eye—her only answer there—
At once she sought and sunk in his embrace:
If he had driven her from that resting-place,
His had been more or less than mortal heart,
But—good or ill—it bade her not depart.
Perchance, but for the bodings of his breast,
His latest virtue then had join'd the rest.
Yet even Medora might forgive the kiss
That ask'd from form so fair no more than this.
The first, the last that Frailty stole from Faith—
To lips where Love had lavish'd all his breath,
To lips—whose broken sighs such fragrance fling,
As he had fann'd them freshly with his wing!

XVIII.

They gain by twilight's hour their lonely isle.
To them the very rocks appear to smile;
The haven hums with many a cheering sound,
The beacons blaze their wonted stations round,
The boats are darting o'er the curly bay,
And sportive dolphins bend them through the spray; [shriek,
Even the hoarse sea-bird's shrill, discordant
Greet like the welcome of his tuneless beak!
Beneath each lamp that through its lattice gleams, [beams.
Their fancy paints the friends that trim the
Oh! what can sanctify the joys of home,
Like Hope's gay glance from Ocean's troubled foam!

XIX.

The lights are high on beacon and from bower,
And 'midst them Conrad seeks Medora's tower:
He looks in vain—'tis strange—and all remark,
Amid so many, hers alone is dark.
'Tis strange—of yore its welcome never fail'd,
Nor now perchance extinguish'd, only veil'd.
With the first boat descends he for the shore,
And looks impatient on the lingering oar.
Oh! for a wing beyond the falcon's flight,
To bear him like an arrow to that height!
With the first pause the resting rowers gave,
He waits not, looks not—leaps into the wave,
Strives through the surge, bestrides the beach,
Ascends the path familiar to his eye [and high
He reached his turret door—he paused—no sound
Broke from within; and all was night around.
He knock'd, and loudly—footstep nor reply
Announced that any heard or deem'd him nigh; [hand
He knock'd, but faintly—for his trembling

Refused to aid his heavy heart's demand.
The portal opens—'tis a well-known face—
But not the form he panted to embrace.
Its lips are silent—twice his own essay'd,
And fail'd to frame the question they delay'd;
He snatch'd the lamp—its light will answer
It quits his grasp, expiring in the fall. [all—
He would not wait for that reviving ray—
As soon could he have linger'd there for day;
But, glimmering through the dusky corridor,
Another chequers o'er the shadow'd floor;
His steps the chamber gain—his eyes behold
All that his heart believed not—yet foretold!

XX.

He turn'd not—spoke not—sunk not—fix'd his look,
And set the anxious frame that lately shook:
He gazed—how long we gaze despite of pain,
And know, but dare not own, we gaze in vain!
In life itself she was so still and fair,
That death with gentler aspect wither'd there;
And the cold flowers her colder hand contain'd,*
In that last grasp as tenderly were strain'd
As if she scarcely felt, but feign'd a sleep,
And made it almost mockery yet to weep:
The long dark lashes fringed her lids of snow,
And veil'd—thought shrinks from all that lurk'd below—
Oh! o'er the eye Death most exerts his might,
And hurls the spirit from her throne of light!
Sinks those blue orbs in that long last eclipse,
But spares, as yet, the charm around her lips—
Yet, yet they seem as they forebore to smile,
And wish'd repose—but only for a while;
But the white shroud, and each extended tress,
Long—fair—but spread in utter lifelessness,
Which, late the sport of every summer wind,
Escaped the baffl'd wreath that strove to bind;
These—and the pale pure cheek, became the bier—
But she is nothing—wherefore is he here?

XXI.

He ask'd no question—all were answer'd now,
By the first glance on that still, marble brow.
It was enough—she died—what reck'd it how?
The love of youth, the hope of better years,
The source of softest wishes, tenderest fears,
The only living thing he could not hate,
Was reft at once—and he deserved his fate,
But did not feel it less;—the good explore,
For peace, those realms where guilt can never soar; [below
The proud, the wayward, who have fix'd
Their joy, and find this earth enough for woe,
Lose in that one their all—perchance a mite—
But who in patience parts with all delight?
Full many a stoic eye and aspect stern [learn:
Mask hearts where grief hath little left to
And many a withering thought lies hid, not lost,
In smiles that least befit who wear them most.

* In the Levant it is the custom to strew flowers on the bodies of the dead, and in the hands of young persons to place a nosegay.

XXII.

By those, that deepest feel, is ill exprest
The indistinctness of the suffering breast;
Where thousand thoughts begin to end in one,
Which seeks from all the refuge found in none;
No words suffice the secret soul to show,
And Truth denies all eloquence to Woe,
On Conrad's stricken soul exhaustion prest,
And stupor almost lull'd it into rest;
So feeble now—his mother's softness crept
To those wild eyes, which like an infant's wept:
It was the very weakness of his brain,
Which thus confess'd without relieving pain.
None saw his trickling tears—perchance if seen,
That useless flood of grief had never been:
Nor long they flow'd—he dried them to depart,
In helpless—hopeless brokenness of heart:
The sun goes forth—but Conrad's day is dim;
And the night cometh—ne'er to pass from him.
There is no darkness like the cloud of mind,
On Grief's vain eye—the blindest of the blind!
Which may not—dare not see—but turns aside
To blackest shade—nor will endure a guide!

XXIII.

His heart was form'd for softness—warp'd to wrong;
Betray'd too early, and beguiled too long;
Each feeling pure—as falls the dropping dew
Within the grot—like that had harden'd too;
Less clear, perchance, its earthly trials pass'd,
But sunk, and chill'd, and petrified at last.
Yet tempests wear, and lightning cleaves the rock;
If such his heart, so shatter'd it the shock.
There grew one flower beneath its rugged brow, [till now.
Though dark the shade—it shelter'd—saved
The thunder came—that bolt hath blasted both,
The Granite's firmness and the Lily's growth:
The gentle plant hath left no leaf to tell
Its tale, but shrunk and wither'd where it fell;
And of its cold protector, blacken round
But shiver'd fragments on the barren ground!

XXIV.

'Tis morn—to venture on his lonely hour
Few dare: though now Anselmo sought his tower.
He was not there—nor seen along the shore;
Ere night, alarm'd, their isle is traversed o'er:
Another morn—another bids them seek,
And shout his name till echo waxeth weak;
Mount, grotto, cavern, valley search'd in vain,
They find on shore a sea-boat's broken chain;
Their hope revives—they follow o'er the main.
'Tis idle all—moons roll on moons away,
And Conrad comes not—came not since that day,
Nor trace, nor tidings of his doom declare
Where lives his grief, or perish'd his despair!

Long mourn'd his band whom none could mourn beside;
And fair the monument they gave his bride:
For him they raise not the recording stone—
His death yet dubious, deeds too widely known;
He left a Corsair's name to other times,
Link'd with one virtue, and a thousand crimes.*

* See Notes at the end of this volume.

LARA.

CANTO THE FIRST.

I.

The Serfs are glad through Lara's wide domain,*
And Slavery half forgets her feudal chain;
He, their unhoped, but unforgotten lord,
The long self-exiled chieftain, is restored:
There be bright faces in the busy hall,
Bowls on the board, and banners on the wall;
Far checkering o'er the pictured window, plays
The unwonted faggot's hospitable blaze;
And gay retainers gather round the hearth,
With tongues all loudness, and with eyes all mirth.

II.

The chief of Lara is return'd again:
And why had Lara cross'd the bounding main?
Left by his sire, too young such loss to know,
Lord of himself;—that heritage of woe,
That fearful empire which the human breast
But holds to rob the heart within of rest!—
With none to check, and few to point in time
The thousand paths that slope the way to crime; [then
Then, when he most required commandment,
Had Lara's daring boyhood govern'd men.
It skills not, boots not, step by step to trace
His youth through all the mazes of its race;
Short was the course his restlessness had run,
But long enough to leave him half undone.

III.

And Lara left in youth his fatherland,
But from the hour he waved his parting hand
Each trace wax'd fainter of his course, till all
Had nearly ceased his memory to recall.
His sire was dust, his vassals could declare,
'Twas all they knew, that Lara was not there;
Nor sent, nor came he, till conjecture grew
Cold in the many, anxious in the few.
His hall scarce echoes with his wonted name,
His portrait darkens in its fading frame,
Another chief consoled his destined bride,
The young forgot him, and the old had died;
"Yet doth he live!" exclaims the impatient heir,
And sighs for sables which he must not wear.
A hundred scutcheons deck with gloomy grace
The Laras' last and longest dwelling-place;
But one is absent from the mouldering file,
That now were welcome in that Gothic pile.

IV.

He comes at last in sudden loneliness,
And whence they know not, why they need not guess; [o'er,
They more might marvel, when the greeting's
Not that he came, but came not long before:
No train is his beyond a single page,
Of foreign aspect, and of tender age.
Years had roll'd on, and fast they speed away
To those that wander as to those that stay;
But lack of tidings from another clime
Had lent a flagging wing to weary Time.
They see, they recognize, yet almost deem
The present dubious or the past a dream.
He lives, not yet is past his manhood's prime,
Though sear'd by toil, and something touch'd by time; [got,
His faults, whate'er they were, if scarce for-
Might be untaught him by his varied lot;
Nor good nor ill of late were known, his name
Might yet unhold his patrimonial fame:
His soul in youth was haughty, but his sins
No more than pleasure from the stripling wins;
And such, if not yet harden'd in their course,
Might be redeem'd, nor ask a long remorse.

V.

And they indeed were changed—'tis quickly seen,
Whate'er he be, 'twas not what he had been;
That brow in furrow'd lines had fix'd at last,
And spake of passions, but of passion past;
The pride, but not the fire, of early days,
Coldness of mien, and carelessness of praise;
A high demeanor, and a glance that took
Their thoughts from others by a single look;
And that sarcastic levity of tongue,
The stinging of a heart the world hath stung,
That darts in seeming playfulness around,
And makes those feel that will not own the wound: [neath
All these seem'd his, and something more be-
Than glance could well reveal, or accent breathe.
Ambition, glory, love, the common aim,
That some can conquer, and that all would claim,

* The reader is apprised that the name of Lara being Spanish, and no circumstance of local or national description fixing the scene or hero of the poem to any country or age, the word "Serf," which could not be correctly applied to the lower classes in Spain, who were never vassals of the soil, has nevertheless been employed to designate the followers of our fictitious chieftain. Lord Byron meant Lara for a chief of the Morea.

Within his breast appear'd no more to strive,
Yet seem'd as lately they had been alive;
And some deep feeling it were vain to trace
At moments lighten'd o'er his livid face.

VI.

Not much he loved long question of the past,
Nor told of wondrous wilds, and deserts vast,
In those far lands where he had wander'd lone, [known:
And—as himself would have it seem—un-
Yet these in vain his eye could scarcely scan,
Nor glean experience from his fellow-man;
But what he had beheld he shunn'd to show,
As hardly worth a stranger's care to know;
If still more prying such inquiry grew,
His brow fell darker, and his words more few.

VII.

Not unrejoiced to see him once again,
Warm was his welcome to the haunts of men;
Born of high lineage, link'd in high command,
He mingled with the magnates of his land;
Join'd the carousals of the great and gay,
And saw them smile or sigh their hours away;
But still he only saw, and did not share
The common pleasure or the general care;
He did not follow what they all pursued,
With hope still baffled, still to be renew'd;
Nor shadowy honor, nor substantial gain,
Nor beauty's preference, and the rival's pain:
Around him some mysterious circle thrown
Repell'd approach, and show'd him still alone;
Upon his eye sate something of reproof,
That kept at least frivolity aloof;
And things more timid that beheld him near,
In silence gazed, or whisper'd mutual fear;
And they the wiser, friendlier few confess'd
They deem'd him better than his air express'd.

VIII.

'Twas strange—in youth all action and all life,
Burning for pleasure, not averse from strife;
Woman—the field—the ocean—all that gave
Promise of gladness, peril of a grave,
In turn he tried—he ransack'd all below,
And found his recompense in joy or woe,
No tame, trite medium: for his feelings sought
In that intenseness an escape from thought:
The tempest of his heart in scorn had gazed
On that the feebler elements had raised:
The rapture of his heart had look'd on high,
And ask'd if greater dwelt beyond the sky:
Chain'd to excess, the slave of each extreme,
How woke he from the wildness of that dream?
Alas! he told not;—but he did awake
To curse the wither'd heart that would not break.

IX.

Books, for his volume heretofore was Man,
With eye more curious he appear'd to scan,
And oft, in sudden mood, for many a day,
From all communion he would start away:
And then, his rarely call'd attendants said,
Through night's long hours would sound his hurried tread
O'er the dark gallery, where his father frown'd
In rude but antique portraiture around:
They heard, but whispered—"*that* must not be known—
The sound of words less earthly than his own.
Yes, they who chose might smile, but some had seen [have been.
They scarce knew what, but more than should
Why gazed he so upon the ghastly head
Which hands profane had gather'd from the
That still beside his open volume lay, [dead,
As if to startle all save him away?
Why slept he not when others were at rest?
Why heard no music, and received no guest?
All was not well, they deem'd; but where the wrong? [long;
Some knew perchance—but 'twere a tale too
And such besides were too discreetly wise,
To more than hint their knowledge in surmise;
But if they would—they could"—around the board,
Thus Lara's vassals prattled of their lord.

X.

It was the night—and Lara's glassy stream
The stars are studding, each with imaged beam;
So calm, the waters scarcely seem to stray,
And yet they glide like happiness away;
Reflecting far and fairy-like from high
The immortal lights that live along the sky:
Its banks are fringed with many a goodly tree,
And flowers the fairest that may feast the bee:
Such in her chaplet infant Dian wove,
And innocence would offer to her love.
These deck the shore; the waves their channel make
In windings bright and mazy like the snake.
All was so still, so soft in earth and air,
You scarce would start to meet a spirit there;
Secure that nought of evil could delight
To walk in such a scene, on such a night!
It was a moment only for the good:
So Lara deem'd, nor longer there he stood,
But turn'd in silence to his castle-gate; [plate;
Such scene his soul no more could contem-
Such scene reminded him of other days,
Of skies more cloudless, moons of purer blaze,
Of nights more soft and frequent, hearts that now—
No—no—the storm may beat upon his brow,
Unfelt—unsparing—but a night like this,
A night of beauty, mock'd such breast as his.

XI.

He turn'd within his solitary hall,
And his high shadow shot along the wall;
There were the painted forms of other times,
'Twas all they left of virtues, or of crimes,
Says vague tradition: and the gloomy vaults
That hid their dust, their foibles and their faults;
And half a column of the pompous page,
That speeds the specious tale from age to age,
Where history's pen its praise or blame supplies,

And lies like truth, and still most truly lies.
He wandering mused, and as the moonbeams shone
Through the dim lattice o'er the floor of stone,
And the high fretted roof, and saints, that there
O'er Gothic windows knelt in pictured prayer,
Reflected in fantastic figures grew,
Like life, but not like mortal life, to view;
His bristling locks of sable, brow of gloom,
And the wide waving of his shaken plume,
Glanced like a spectre's attributes, and gave
His aspect all that terror gives the grave.

XII.

'Twas midnight—all was slumber; the lone light [night.
Dimm'd in the lamp, as loth to break the
Hark! there be murmurs heard in Lara's hall—
A sound—a voice—a shriek—a fearful call!
A long, loud shriek—and silence—did they hear
That frantic echo burst the sleeping ear?
They heard and rose, and, tremulously brave,
Rush where the sound invoked their aid to save;
They come with half-lit tapers in their hands,
And snatch'd in startled haste unbelted brands.

XIII.

Cold as the marble where his length was laid,
Pale as the beam that o'er his features play'd,
Was Lara stretch'd; his half-drawn sabre near,
Dropp'd it should seem in more than nature's fear;
Yet he was firm, or had been firm till now,
And still defiance knit his gather'd brow;
Though mix'd with terror, senseless as he lay,
There lived upon his lip the wish to slay;
Some half-form'd threat in utterance there had died,
Some imprecation of despairing pride;
His eye was almost seal'd, but not forsook
Even in its trance the gladiator's look,
That oft awake his aspect could disclose,
And now was fix'd in horrible repose.
They raise him—bear him—hush! he breathes, he speaks,
The swarthy blush recolors in his cheeks,
His lip resumes its red, his eye, though dim,
Rolls wide and wild, each slowly quivering limb
Recalls its function, but his words are strong
In terms that seem not of his native tongue;
Distinct but strange, enough they understand
To deem them accents of another land:
And such they were, and meant to meet an ear
That hears him not—alas, that cannot hear!

XIV.

His page approach'd, and he alone appear'd
To know the import of the words they heard;
And by the changes of his cheek and brow,
They were not such as Lara should avow,
Nor he interpret—yet with less surprise
Than those around their chieftain's state he eyes.
But Lara's prostrate form he bent beside,
And in that tongue which seem'd his own replied,
And Lara heeds those tones that gently seem
To soothe away the horrors of his dream—
If dream it were, that thus could overthrow
A breast that needed not ideal woe.

XV.

Whate'er his frenzy dream'd or eye beheld,—
If yet remember'd ne'er to be reveal'd;—
Rests at his heart; the custom'd morning came,
And breathed new vigor in his shaken frame;
And solace sought he none from priest nor leech, [speech,
And soon the same in movement and in
As heretofore he fill'd the passing hours,—
Nor less he smiles, nor more his forehead lowers [night
Than these were wont; and if the coming
Appear'd less welcome now to Lara's sight,
He to his marvelling vassals show'd it not,
Whose shuddering proved *their* fear was less forgot.
In trembling pairs (alone they dared not) crawl [hall;
The astonish'd slaves, and shun the fated
The waving banner and the clapping door,
The rustling tapestry, and the echoing floor;
The long dim shadows of surrounding trees,
The flapping bat, the night-song of the breeze;
Aught they behold or hear their thought appals,
As evening saddens o'er the dark grey walls.

XVI.

Vain thought! that hour of ne'er unravell'd gloom
Came not again, or Lara could assume
A seeming of forgetfulness, that made
His vassals more amazed, nor less afraid—
Had memory vanish'd then with sense restored? [lord
Since word, nor look, nor gesture of their
Betray'd a feeling that recall'd to these
That fever'd moment of his mind's disease.
Was it a dream? was his the voice that spoke?
Those strange wild accents; his the cry that broke [heart
Their slumber? his the oppress'd, o'er-labor'd
That ceased to beat, the look that made them start?
Could he who thus had suffer'd, so forget,
When such as saw that suffering shudder yet?
Or did that silence prove his memory fix'd
Too deep for words, indelible, unmix'd
In that corroding secrecy which gnaws
The heart to show the effect, but not the cause?
Not so in him; his breast had buried both,
Nor common gazers could discern the growth
Of thoughts that mortal lips must leave half told; [fold.
They choke the feeble words that would un-

XVII.

In him inexplicably mix'd appear'd
Much to be loved and hated, sought and fear'd;
Opinion varying o'er his hidden lot,
In praise or railing ne'er his name forgot:
His silence form'd a theme for others' prate—
They guess'd—they gazed—they fain would know his fate. [known.
What had he been? what was he, thus un-
Who walk'd their world, his lineage only known?
A hater of his kind? yet some would say,
With them he could seem gay amidst the gay;
But own'd that smile, if oft observed and near,
Waned in its mirth, and wither'd to a sneer;
That smile might reach his lip, but pass'd not by,
None e'er could trace its laughter to his eye:
Yet there was softness too in his regard,
At times, a heart as not by nature hard,
But once perceived, his spirit seem'd to chide
Such weakness, as unworthy of its pride,
And steel'd itself, as scorning to redeem
One doubt from others' half withheld esteem:
In self-inflicted penance of a breast
Which tenderness might once have wrung from rest;
In vigilance of grief, that would compel
The soul to hate for having loved too well.

XVIII.

There was in him a vital scorn of all:
As if the worst had fall'n which could befall,
He stood a stranger in this breathing world,
An erring spirit from another hurl'd;
A thing of dark imaginings, that shaped
By choice the perils he by chance escaped;
But 'scaped in vain, for in their memory yet
His mind would half exult and half regret:
With more capacity for love than earth
Bestows on most of mortal mould and birth,
His early dreams of good outstripp'd the truth,
And troubled manhood follow'd baffled youth;
With thought of years in phantom chase misspent,
And wasted powers for better purpose lent,
And fiery passions that had pour'd their wrath
In hurried desolation o'er his path,
And left the better feelings all at strife
In wild reflection o'er his stormy life;
But haughty still, and loth himself to blame,
He call'd on Nature's self to share the shame,
And charged all faults upon the fleshly form
She gave to clog the soul, and feast the worm,
Till he at last confounded good and ill,
And half mistook for fate the acts of will:
Too high for common selfishness, he could
At times resign his own for others' good,
But not in pity, not because he ought,
But in some strange perversity of thought,
That sway'd him onward with a secret pride
To do what few or none would do beside;
And this same impulse would, in tempting time,
Mislead his spirit equally to crime;
So much he soar'd beyond, or sunk beneath,
The men with whom he felt condemn'd to breathe,
And long'd by good or ill to separate
Himself from all who shared his mortal state:
His mind abhorring this had fix'd her throne
Far from the world, in regions of her own:
Thus coldly passing all that pass'd below,
His blood in temperate seeming now would flow:
Ah! happier if it ne'er with guilt had glow'd,
But ever in that icy smoothness flow'd!
'Tis true, with other men their path he walk'd,
And like the rest in seeming did and talk'd;
Nor outraged Reason's rules by flaw nor start,
His madness was not of the head but heart;
And rarely wander'd in his speech, or drew
His thoughts so forth as to offend the view.

XIX.

With all the chilling mystery of mien,
And seeming gladness to remain unseen,
He had (if 'twere not nature's boon) an art
Of fixing memory on another's heart:
It was not love perchance, nor hate, nor aught
That words can image to express the thought:
But they who saw him did not see in vain,
And once beheld, would ask of him again;
And those to whom he spake remember'd well,
And on the words, however light, would dwell;
None knew nor how, nor why, but he entwined
Himself perforce around the hearer's mind;
There he was stamp'd, in liking, or in hate,
If greeted once; however brief the date
That friendship, pity, or aversion knew,
Still there within the inmost thought he grew.
You could not penetrate his soul but found,
Despite your wonder, to your own he wound:
His presence haunted still; and from the
He forced an all-unwilling interest; [breast
Vain was the struggle in that mental net,
His spirit seem'd to dare you to forget!

XX.

There is a festival, where knights and dames,
And aught that wealth or lofty lineage claims,
Appear—a high-born and a welcomed guest
To Otho's hall came Lara with the rest.
The long carousal shakes the illumined hall,
Well speeds alike the banquet and the ball;
And the gay dance of bounding Beauty's train
Links grace and harmony in happiest chain:
Blest are the early hearts and gentle hands
That mingle there in well according bands;
It is a sight the careful brow might smooth,
And make Age smile, and dream itself to youth, [earth,
And Youth forget such hour was pass'd on
So springs the exulting bosom to that mirth!

XXI.

And Lara gazed on these, sedately glad;
His brow belied him if his soul was sad;
And his glance follow'd fast each fluttering fair,
Whose steps of lightness woke no echo there:

He lean'd against the lofty pillar nigh,
With folded arms and long attentive eye,
Nor mark'd a glance so sternly fix'd on his—
Ill brook'd high Lara scrutiny like this.
At length he caught it, 'tis a face unknown,
But seems as searching his, and his alone;
Prying and dark, a stranger's by his mien,
Who still till now had gazed on him unseen:
At length encountering meets the mutual gaze
Of keen inquiry, and of mute amaze:
On Lara's glance emotion gathering grew,
As if distrusting that the stranger threw;
Along the stranger's aspect, fix'd and stern,
Flash'd more than thence the vulgar eye could learn.

XXII.

"'Tis he!" the stranger cried, and those that heard,
Re-echo'd fast and far the whisper'd word.
"'Tis he!"—"'Tis who?" they question far and near,
Till louder accents rung on Lara's ear;
So widely spread, few bosoms well could brook
The general marvel, or that single look:
But Lara stirr'd not, changed not: the surprise
That sprung at first to his arrested eyes
Seem'd now subsided; neither sunk nor raised
Glanc'd his eye round, though still the stranger gazed; [sneer,
And drawing nigh, exclaim'd with haughty
"'Tis he!—how came he thence?—what doth he here?"

XXIII.

It were too much for Lara to pass by
Such questions, so repeated fierce and high;
With look collected, but with accent cold,
More mildly firm than petulantly bold,
He turn'd, and met the inquisitorial tone—
"My name is Lara!—when thine own is known,
Doubt not my fitting answer to requite
The unlook'd-for courtesy of such a knight.
'Tis Lara!—further wouldst thou mark or ask?
I shun no question, and I wear no mask."

"Thou shunn'st no question! Ponder—is there none [would shun?
Thy heart must answer, though thine ear
And deem'st thou me unknown too? Gaze again!
At least thy memory was not given in vain.
Oh! never canst thou cancel half her debt,
Eternity forbids thee to forget."
With slow and searching glance upon his face
Grew Lara's eyes, but nothing there could trace [look
They knew, or chose to know—with dubious
He deign'd no answer, but his head he shook,
And half contemptuous turn'd to pass away;
But the stern stranger motion'd him to stay.
"A word!—I charge thee stay, and answer here
To one who, wert thou noble, were thy peer;
But as thou wast and art—nay, frown not,
If false, 'tis easy to disprove the word— [lord,
But as thou wast and art, on thee looks down,
Distrusts thy smiles, but shakes not at thy frown.
Art thou not he, whose deeds——"
"Whate'er I be,
Words wild as these, accusers like to thee,
I list no further; those with whom they weigh
May hear the rest, nor venture to gainsay
The wondrous tale no doubt thy tongue can tell,
Which thus begins so courteously and well.
Let Otho cherish here his polish'd guest,
To him my thanks and thoughts shall be express'd." [posed:
And here their wondering host hath inter-
"Whate'er there be between you undisclosed,
This is no time nor fitting place to mar
The mirthful meeting with a wordy war.
If thou, Sir Ezzelin, hast aught to show
Which it befits Count Lara's ear to know,
To-morrow, here, or elsewhere as may best
Beseem your mutual judgment, speak the rest;
I pledge myself for thee, as not unknown,
Though, like Count Lara, now return'd alone
From other lands, almost a stranger grown;
And if from Lara's blood and gentle birth
I augur right of courage and of worth,
He will not that untainted line belie, [deny."
Nor aught that knighthood may accord,

"To-morrow be it," Ezzelin replied, [tried;
"And here our several worth and truth be
I gage my life, my falchion, to attest
My words; so may I mingle with the blest!"
What answers Lara? to its centre shrunk
His soul, in deep abstraction sudden sunk;
The words of many, and the eyes of all [fall;
That there were gather'd, seem'd on him to
But his were silent, his appear'd to stray
In far forgetfulness—away—away—
Alas! that heedlessness of all around
Bespoke remembrance only too profound.

XXIV.

"To-morrow!—ay, to-morrow!" Further word
Than those repeated none from Lara heard.
Upon his brow no outward passion spoke,
From his large eye no flashing anger broke:
Yet there was something fix'd in that low tone
Which show'd resolve, determined, though unknown. [bow'd,
He seized his cloak—his head he slightly
And passing Ezzelin he left the crowd;
And, as he pass'd him, smiling met the frown
With which that chieftain's brow would bear him down.
It was nor smile of mirth, nor struggling pride
That curbs to scorn the wrath it cannot hide;
But that of one in his own heart secure
Of all that he would do, or could endure.
Could this mean peace? the calmness of the good?

Or guilt grown old in desperate hardihood?
Alas! too like in confidence are each
For man to trust to mortal look or speech;
From deeds, and deeds alone, may he discern
Truths which it wrings the unpractised heart to learn.

XXV.

And Lara call'd his page, and went his way—
Well could that stripling word or sign obey;
His only follower from those climes afar
Where the soul glows beneath a brighter star;
For Lara left the shore from whence he sprung.
In duty patient, and sedate though young;
Silent as him he served, his faith appears
Above his station, and beyond his years.
Though not unknown the tongue of Lara's land,
In such from him he rarely heard command;
But fleet his step, and clear his tones would come, [home:
When Lara's lips breathed forth the words of
Those accents, as his native mountains dear,
Awake their absent echoes in his ear,
Friends', kindreds', parents', wonted voice recall, [all:
Now lost, abjured, for one—his friend, his
For him earth now disclosed no other guide;
What marvel, then, he rarely left his side?

XXVI.

Light was his form, and darkly delicate
That brow whereon his native sun had sate,
But had not marr'd, though in his beams he grew, [through;
The cheek where oft the unbidden blush shone
Yet not such blush as mounts when health would show
All the heart's hue in that delighted glow;
But 'twas a hectic tint of secret care
That for a burning moment fever'd there.
And the wild sparkle of his eye seem'd caught
From high, and lighten'd with electric thought, [fringe
Though its black orb those long low lashes'
Had temper'd with a melancholy tinge;
Yet less of sorrow than of pride was there;
Or, if 'twere grief, a grief that none should share: [his age,
And pleased not him the sports that please
The tricks of youth, the frolics of the page;
For hours on Lara he would fix his glance,
As all-forgotten in that watchful trance;
And from his chief withdrawn, he wander'd lone, [none;
Brief were his answers, and his questions
His walk the wood, his sport some foreign book; [brook:
His resting-place the bank that curbs the
He seem'd, like him he served, to live apart
From all that lures the eye, and fills the heart;
To know no brotherhood, and take from earth
No gift beyond that bitter boon—our birth.

XXVII.

If aught he loved, 'twas Lara; but was shown
His faith in reverence and in deeds alone;
In mute attention; and his care, which guess'd
Each wish, fulfill'd it ere the tongue express'd.
Still there was haughtiness in all he did,
A spirit deep that brook'd not to be chid:
His zeal, though more than that of servile hands,
In act alone obeys; his air commands;
As if 'twas Lara's less than *his* desire
That thus he served, but surely not for hire.
Slight were the tasks enjoin'd him by his lord,
To hold the stirrup, or to bear the sword;
To tune his lute, or, if he will'd it more,
On tomes of other times and tongues to pore;
But ne'er to mingle with the menial train,
To whom he show'd nor deference nor disdain, [knew
But that well-worn reserve which proved he
No sympathy with that familiar crew:
His soul, whate'er his station or his stem,
Could bow to Lara, not descend to them.
Of higher birth he seem'd, and better days,
Nor mark of vulgar toil that hand betrays,
So femininely white, it might bespeak
Another sex, when match'd with that smooth cheek,
But for his garb, and something in his gaze,
More wild and high than woman's eye betrays:
A latent fierceness that far more became
His fiery climate than his tender frame:
True, in his words it broke not from his breast,
But from his aspect might be more than guess'd.
Kaled his name, though rumor said he bore
Another ere he left his mountain shore,
For sometimes he would hear, however nigh,
That name repeated loud without reply,
As unfamiliar, or, if roused again,
Start to the sound, as but remember'd then:
Unless 'twas Lara's wonted voice that spake,
For then, ear, eyes, and heart would all awake.

XXVIII.

He had look'd down upon the festive hall,
And mark'd that sudden strife so mark'd of all,
And when the crowd around and near him told
Their wonder at the calmness of the bold,
Their marvel how the high-born Lara bore
Such insult from a stranger, doubly sore,
The color of young Kaled went and came,
The lip of ashes and the cheek of flame;
And o'er his brow the dampening heart-drops threw
The sickening iciness of that cold dew,
That rises as the busy bosom sinks [shrinks.
With heavy thoughts from which reflection
Yes—there be things which we must dream and dare,
And execute ere thought be half aware:
Whate'er might Kaled's be, it was enow
To seal his lip, but agonize his brow.
He gazed on Ezzelin till Lara cast [pass'd;
That sidelong smile upon the knight he
When Kaled saw that smile his visage fell,

As if on something recognized right well;
His memory read in such a meaning more
Than Lara's aspect unto others wore: [gone,
Forward he sprung—a moment both were
And all within that hall seem'd left alone;
Each had so fix'd his eye on Lara's mien,
All had so mix'd their feelings with that scene,
That when his long dark shadow through the
porch
No more relieves the glare of yon high torch,
Each pulse beats quicker, and all bosoms seem
To bound as doubting from too black a dream,
Such as we know is false, yet dread in sooth,
Because the worst is ever nearest truth.
And they are gone—but Ezzelin is there,
With thoughtful visage and imperious air;
But long remain'd not: ere an hour expired
He waved his hand to Otho, and retired.

XXIX.

The crowd are gone, the revellers at rest;
The courteous host, and all-approving guest,
Again to that accustom'd couch must creep
Where joy subsides, and sorrow sighs to sleep,
And man, o'erlabor'd with his being's strife,
Shrinks to that sweet forgetfulness of life:
There lie love's feverish hope, and cunning's
guile, [wile;
Hate's working brain, and lull'd ambition's
O'er each vain eye oblivion's pinions wave,
And quench'd existence crouches in a grave.
What better name may slumber's bed be-
come?
Night's sepulchre, the universal home.
Where weakness, strength, vice, virtue, sunk
Alike in naked helplessness recline; [supine,
Glad for a while to heave unconscious breath,
Yet wake to wrestle with the dread of death,
And shun, though day but dawn on ills in-
creased, [least.
That sleep, the loveliest, since it dreams the

CANTO THE SECOND.

I.

Night wanes—the vapors round the moun-
tains curl'd
Melt into morn, and Light awakes the world.
Man has another day to swell the past,
And lead him near to little, but his last:
But mighty Nature bounds as from her birth,
The sun is in the heavens, and life on earth;
Flowers in the valley, splendor in the beam,
Health on the gale, and freshness in the
stream.
Immortal man! behold her glories shine,
And cry exulting inly, "They are thine!"
Gaze on, while yet thy gladden'd eye may see;
A morrow comes when they are not for thee;
And grieve what may above thy senseless bier,
Nor earth nor sky will yield a single tear;
Nor cloud shall gather more, nor leaf shall
fall, [all;
Nor gale breathe forth one sigh for thee, for
But creeping things shall revel in their spoil,
And fit thy clay to fertilize the soil.

II.

'Tis morn—'tis noon—assembled in the hall,
The gather'd chieftains come to Otho's call:
'Tis now the promised hour, that must pro-
claim
The life or death of Lara's future fame;
When Ezzelin his charge may here unfold,
And whatsoe'er the tale, it must be told.
His faith was pledged, and Lara's promise
given,
To meet it in the eye of man and Heaven.
Why comes he not? Such truths to be di-
vulged,
Methinks the accuser's rest is long indulged.

III.

The hour is past, and Lara too is there,
With self-confiding, coldly patient air;
Why comes not Ezzelin? The hour is past,
And murmurs rise, and Otho's brow's o'ercast.
"I know my friend! his faith I cannot fear—
If yet he be on earth, expect him here;
The roof that held him in the valley stands
Between my own and noble Lara's lands;
My halls from such a guest had honor gain'd,
Nor had Sir Ezzelin his host disdain'd,
But that some previous proof forbade his stay,
And urged him to prepare against to-day;
The word I pledged for his I pledge again,
Or will myself redeem his knighthood's stain."

He ceased—and Lara answer'd, "I am here
To lend at thy demand a listening ear
To tales of evil from a stranger's tongue,
Whose words already might my heart have
wrung
But that I deem'd him scarcely less than mad,
Or, at the worst, a foe ignobly bad.
I know him not—but me it seems he knew
In lands where—but I must not trifle too:
Produce this babbler—or redeem the pledge;
Here in thy hold, and with thy falchion's
edge."
Proud Otho on the instant, reddening, threw
His glove on earth, and forth his sabre flew.
"The last alternative befits me best,
And thus I answer for mine absent guest."

With cheek unchanging from its sallow gloom,
However near his own or other's tomb;
With hand, whose almost careless coolness
spoke
Its grasp well used to deal the sabre-stroke;
With eye, though calm, determined not to
spare,
Did Lara too his willing weapon bare. [closed,
In vain the circling chieftains round them
For Otho's frenzy would not be opposed;
And from his lip those words of insult fell—
His sword is good who can maintain them well.

IV.

Short was the conflict; furious, blindly rash,
Vain Otho gave his bosom to the gash;
He bled, and fell; but not with deadly wound,
Stretch'd by a dexterous sleight along the ground. [then
"Demand thy life!" He answered not: and
From that red floor he ne'er had risen again,
For Lara's brow upon the moment grew
Almost to blackness in its demon hue;
And fiercer shook his angry falchion now
Than when his foe's was levell'd at his brow:
Then all was stern collectedness and art,
Now rose the unleaven'd hatred of his heart;
So little sparing to the foe he fell'd, [withheld,
That when the approaching crowd his arm
He almost turned the thirsty point on those
Who thus for mercy dared to interpose;
But to a moment's thought that purpose bent;
Yet look'd he on him still with eye intent,
As if he loathed the ineffectual strife
That left a foe, howe'er o'erthrown, with life;
As if to search how far the wound he gave
Had sent its victim onward to his grave.

V.

They raised the bleeding Otho, and the Leech
Forbade all present question, sign, and speech;
The others met within a neighboring hall,
And he, incensed and heedless of them all,
The cause and conqueror in this sudden fray,
In haughty silence slowly strode away: [took,
He back'd his steed, his homeward path he
Nor cast on Otho's towers a single look.

VI.

But where was he—that meteor of a night,
Who menaced but to disappear with light?
Where was this Ezzelin? who came and went
To leave no other trace of his intent.
He left the dome of Otho long ere morn,
In darkness, yet so well the path was worn,
He could not miss it: near his dwelling lay;
But there he was not, and with coming day
Came fast inquiry, which unfolded nought
Except the absence of the chief it sought.
A chamber tenantless, a steed at rest, [tress'd.
His host alarm'd, his murmuring squires dis-
Their search extends along, around the path,
In dread to meet the marks of prowlers' wrath:
But none are there, and not a brake hath borne
Nor gout of blood, nor shred of mantle torn:
Nor fall nor struggle hath defaced the grass,
Which still retains a mark where murder was;
Nor dabbling fingers left to tell the tale,
The bitter print of each convulsive nail.
When agonized hands that ceased to guard,
Wound in that pang the smoothness of the sward.
Some such had been, if here a life was reft,
But these were not; and doubting hope is left;
And strange suspicion, whispering Lara's name,
Now daily mutters o'er his blacken'd fame:
Then sudden silent when his form appear'd,
Awaits the absence of the thing it fear'd;
Again its wonted wondering to renew,
And dye conjecture with a darker hue.

VII.

Days roll along, and Otho's wounds are heal'd,
But not his pride; and hate no more conceal'd:
He was a man of power, and Lara's foe,
The friend of all who sought to work him woe:
And from his country's justice now demands
Account of Ezzelin at Lara's hands.
Who else than Lara could have cause to fear
His presence? who had made him disappear,
If not the man on whom his menaced charge
Had sate too deeply were he left at large?
The general rumor ignorantly loud,
The mystery dearest to the curious crowd;
The seeming friendlessness of him who strove
To win no confidence, and wake no love:
The sweeping fierceness which his soul betray'd, [blade;
The skill with which he wielded his keen
Where had his arm unwarlike caught that art?
Where had that fierceness grown upon his heart?
For it was not the blind capricious rage
A word can kindle and a word assuage:
But the deep working of a soul unmix'd
With aught of pity where his wrath had fix'd;
Such as long power and overgorged success
Concentrates into all that's merciless:
These, link'd with that desire which ever sways
Mankind, the rather to condemn than praise,
'Gainst Lara gathering raised at length a storm, [form,
Such as himself might fear, and foes would
And he must answer for the absent head
Of one that haunts him still, alive or dead.

VIII.

Within that land was many a malcontent,
Who cursed the tyranny to which he bent;
That soil full many a wringing despot saw,
Who worked his wantonness in form of law.
Long war without and frequent broil within
Had made a path for blood and giant sin,
That waited but a signal to begin
New havoc, such as civil discord blends,
Which knows no neuter, owns but foes or friends:
Fix'd in his feudal fortress, each was lord,
In word and deed obey'd, in soul abhorr'd.
Thus Lara had inherited his lands, [hands;
And with them pining hearts and sluggish
But that long absence from his native clime
Had left him stainless of oppression's crime,
And now, diverted by its milder sway,
All dread by slow degrees had worn away.
The menials felt their usual awe alone,
But more for him than them that fear was grown; [first
They deem'd him now unhappy, though at
Their evil judgment augur'd of the worst;
And each long restless night, and silent mood,
Was traced to sickness fed by solitude:
And though his lonely habits threw of late

Gloom o'er his chamber, cheerful was his gate;
For thence the wretched ne'er unsoothed withdrew,
For them, at least, his soul compassion knew.
Cold to the great, contemptuous to the high,
The humble pass'd not his unheeding eye;
Much he would speak not, but beneath his roof
They found asylum oft, and ne'er reproof.
And they who who watch'd might mark that, day by day,
Some new retainers gather'd to his sway;
But most of late, since Ezzelin was lost, host:
He play'd the courteous lord and bounteous
Perchance his strife with Otho made him dread
Some snare prepared for his obnoxious head;
Whate'er his view, his favor more obtains
With these, the people, than his fellow-thanes,
If this were policy, so far 'twas sound,
The million judged but of him as they found;
From him by sterner chiefs to exile driven,
They but required a shelter, and 'twas given,
By him no peasant mourned his rifled cot,
And scarce the serf could murmur o'er his lot;
With him old avarice found its hoard secure,
With him contempt forebore to mock the poor;
Youth present cheer and promised recompense
Detain'd, till all too late to part from thence:
To hate he offer'd, with the coming change,
The deep reversion of delay'd revenge;
To love, long baffled by the unequal match,
The well-won charms success was sure to snatch.
All now was ripe, he waits but to proclaim
That slavery nothing which was still a name.
The moment came, the hour when Otho thought
Secure at last the vengeance which he sought;
His summons found the destined criminal
Begirt by thousands in his swarming hall,
Fresh from their feudal fetters newly riven,
Defying earth, and confident of heaven.
That morning he had freed the soil-bound slaves
Who dig no land for tyrants but their graves!
Such is their cry—some watchword for the fight
Must vindicate the wrong, and warp the right;
Religion — freedom — vengeance — what you will,
A word's enough to raise mankind to kill;
Some factious phrase by cunning caught and spread,
That guilt may reign, and wolves and worms be fed.

IX.

Throughout that clime the feudal chiefs had gain'd reign'd:
Such sway, their infant monarch hardly
Now was the hour for faction's rebel growth,
The serfs contemn'd the one, and hated both:
They waited but a leader, and they found
One to their cause inseparably bound;
By circumstance compell'd to plunge again,
In self-defence, amidst the strife of men.
Cut off by some mysterious fate from those
Whom birth and nature meant not for his foes,
Had Lara from that night, to him accurst,
Prepared to meet, but not alone, the worst:
Some reason urged, whate'er it was to shun
Inquiry into deeds at distance done;
By mingling with his own the cause of all,
E'en if he fail'd, he still delay'd his fall.
The sullen calm that long his bosom kept,
The storm that once had spent itself and slept,
Roused by events that seem'd foredoom'd to urge
His gloomy fortunes to their utmost verge,
Burst forth, and made him all he once had been,
And is again; he only changed the scene.
Light care had he for life, and less for fame,
But not less fitted for the desperate game;
He deem'd himself mark'd out for others' hate,
And mock'd at ruin so they shared his fate.
What cared he for the freedom of the crowd?
He raised the humble but to bend the proud.
He had hoped quiet in his sullen lair,
But man and destiny beset him there:
Inured to hunters, he was found at bay,
And they must kill, they cannot snare the prey.
Stern, unambitious, silent, he had been
Henceforth a calm spectator of life's scene;
But dragg'd again upon the arena, stood
A leader not unequal to the feud;
In voice—mien—gesture, savage nature spoke,
And from his eye the gladiator broke.

X.

What boots the oft-repeated tale of strife,
The feast of vultures, and the waste of life?
The varying fortune of each separate field,
The fierce that vanquish, and the faint that yield?
The smoking ruin, and the crumbled wall?
Is this the struggle was the same with all;
Save that distemper'd passions lent their force
In bitterness that banish'd all remorse.
None sued, for Mercy knew her cry was vain,
The captive died upon the battle-plain:
In either cause, one rage alone possess'd
The empire of the alternate victor's breast;
And they that smote for freedom or for sway,
Deem'd few were slain while more remain'd to slay.
It was too late to check the wasting brand,
And Desolation reap'd the famish'd land;
The torch was lighted, and the flame was spread,
And Carnage smiled upon her daily dead.

XI.

Fresh with the nerve the new-born impulse strung,
The first success to Lara's numbers clung:
But that vain victory hath ruin'd all;
They form no longer to their leader's call:
In blind confusion on the foe they press,
And think to snatch is to secure success,
The lust of booty, and the thirst of hate,

Lure on the broken brigands to their fate:
In vain he doth whate'er a chief may do,
To check the headlong fury of that crew;
In vain their stubborn ardor he would tame,
The hand that kindles cannot quench the flame;
The wary foe alone hath turn'd their mood,
And shown their rashness to that erring brood:
The feign'd retreat, the nightly ambuscade,
The daily harass, and the fight delay'd,
The long privation of the hoped supply,
The tentless rest beneath the humid sky,
The stubborn wall that mocks the leaguer's art,
And palls the patience of his baffled heart,
Of these they had not deem'd; the battle-day
They could encounter as a veteran may,
But more preferr'd the fury of the strife,
And present death to hourly suffering life;
And famine wrings, and fever sweeps away
His numbers melting fast from their array;
Intemperate triumph fades to discontent,
And Lara's soul alone seems still unbent;
But few remain to aid his voice and hand,
And thousands dwindled to a scanty band:
Desperate, though few, the last and best remain'd
To mourn the discipline they late disdain'd.
One hope survives, the frontier is not far,
And thence they may escape from native war,
And bear within them to the neighboring state
An exile's sorrows, or an outlaw's hate:
Hard is the task their fatherland to quit,
But harder still to perish or submit.

XII.

It is resolved—they march—consenting Night
Guides with her star their dim and torchless flight;
Already they perceive its tranquil beam
Sleep on the surface of the barrier stream:
Already they descry—Is yon the bank?
Away! 'tis lined with many a hostile rank.
Return or fly!—What glitters in the rear?
'Tis Otho's banner—the pursuer's spear!
Are those the shepherds' fires upon the height?
Alas! they blaze too widely for the flight:
Cut off from hope, and compass'd in the toil,
Less blood, perchance, hath bought a richer spoil!

XIII.

A moment's pause—'tis but to breathe their band,
Or shall they onward press, or here withstand?
It matters little—if they charge their foes
Who by the border-stream their march oppose,
Some few perchance may break and pass the line,
However link'd to baffle such design.
"The charge be ours! to wait for their assault
Were fate well worthy of a coward's halt."
Forth flies each sabre, rein'd is every steed,
And the next word shall scarce outstrip the deed:
In the next tone of Lara's gathering breath,
How many shall but hear the voice of death!

XIV.

His blade is bared—in him there is an air
As deep, but far too tranquil for despair;
A something of indifference more than then
Becomes the bravest, if they feel for men.
He turn'd his eye on Kaled, ever near,
And still too faithful to betray one fear;
Perchance 'twas but the moon's dim twilight threw
Along his aspect an unwonted hue [press'd
Of mournful paleness, whose deep tint ex-
The truth, and not the terror of his breast.
This Lara mark'd, and laid his hand on his;
It trembled not in such an hour as this;
His lip was silent, scarcely beat his heart;
His eye alone proclaim'd, "We will not part!
Thy band may perish, or thy friends may flee;
Farewell to life, but not adieu to thee!"

The word hath pass'd his lips, and onward driven, [riven;
Pours the link'd band through ranks asunder
Well has each steed obey'd the armed heel,
And flash the scimetars, and rings the steel;
Outnumber'd, not outbraved, they still oppose
Despair to daring, and a front to foes:
And blood is mingled with the dashing stream,
Which runs all redly till the morning beam.

XV.

Commanding, aiding, animating all,
Where foe appear'd to press, or friend to fall,
Cheers Lara's voice, and wave or strikes his steel,
Inspiring hope himself had cease to feel.
None fled, for well they knew that flight were vain;
But those that waver turn to smite again,
While yet they find the firmest of the foe
Recoil before their leader's look and blow:
Now girt with numbers, now almost alone,
He foils their ranks, or reunites his own; [fly—
Himself he spared not—once they seemed to
Now was the time, he waved his hand on high,
And shook—Why sudden droops that plumed crest?
The shaft is sped—the arrow's in his breast!
That fatal gesture left the unguarded side,
And Death had stricken down that arm of pride.
The word of triumph fainted from his tongue;
That hand, so raised, how droopingly it hung!
But yet the sword instinctively retains; [reins.
Though from its fellow shrink the falling
These Kaled snatches: dizzy with the blow,
And senseless bending o'er his saddle-bow,
Perceives not Lara that his anxious page
Beguiles his charger from the combat's rage;
Meantime his followers charge, and charge again;
Too mix'd the slayers now to heed the slain!

XVI.

Day glimmers on the dying and the dead,
The cloven cuirass, and the helmless head;
The war-horse masterless is on the earth,

And that last gasp hath burst his bloody girth;
And near, yet quivering with what life remain'd, [rein'd;
The heel that urged him, and the hand that
And some too near that rolling torrent lie,
Whose waters mock the lip of thosé that die;
That panting thirst which scorches in the breath
Of those that die the soldier's fiery death,
In vain impels the burning mouth to crave
One drop—the last—to cool it for the grave;
With feeble and convulsive effort swept,
Their limbs along the crimson'd turf have crept;
The faint remains of life such struggles waste, [taste;
But yet they reach the stream, and bend to
They feel its freshness, and almost partake—
Why pause?—No further thirst have they to slake—
It is unquench'd, and yet they feel it not;
It was an agony—but now forgot.

XVII.

Beneath a lime, remoter from the scene,
Where but for him that strife had never been,
A breathing but devoted warrior lay:
'Twas Lara bleeding fast from life away.
His follower once, and now his only guide,
Kneels Kaled watchful o'er his welling side,
And with his scarf would stanch the tides that rush
With each convulsion in a blacker gush;
And then, as his faint breathing waxes low,
In feebler, not less fatal tricklings flow;
He scarce can speak, but motions him 'tis vain,
And merely adds another throb to pain.
He clasps the hand that pang which would assuage,
And sadly smiles his thanks to that dark page,
Who nothing fears, nor feels, nor heeds, nor sees, [knees:
Save that damp brow which rests upon his
Save that pale aspect, where the eye, though dim,
Held all the light that shone on earth for him.

XVIII.

The foe arrives, who long had search'd the field, [yield!
Their triumph nought till Lara too should
They would remove him, but they see 'twere vain,
And he regards them with a calm disdain,
That rose to reconcile him with his fate,
And that escape to death from living hate:
And Otho comes, and leaping from his steed,
Looks on the bleeding foe that made him bleed,
And questions of his state; he answers not,
Scarce glances on him as on one forgot,
And turns to Kaled:—each remaining word
They understood not, if distinctly heard;
His dying tones are in that other tongue,
To which some strange remembrance wildly clung.

They spake of other scenes, but what—is known
To Kaled, whom their meaning reach'd alone;
And he replied, though faintly, to their sound,
While gazed the rest in dumb amazement round: [last
They seem'd even then—that twain—unto the
To half forget the present in the past! [fate,
To share between themselves some separate
Whose darkness none beside should penetrate.

XIX.

Their words, though faint, were many—from the tone [alone;
Their import those who heard could judge
From this, you might have deemed young Kaled's death
More near than Lara's by his voice and breath,
So sad, so deep, and hesitating broke [spoke;
The accents his scaree-moving pale lips
But Lara's voice, though low, at first was clear
And calm, till murmuring death gasp'd hoarsely near;
But from visage little could we guess,
So unrepentant, dark, and passionless,
Save that when struggling nearer to his last,
Upon that page his eye was kindly cast;
And once, as Kaled's answering accents ceased,
Rose Lara's hand, and pointed to the East;
Whether (as then the breaking sun from high
Roll'd back the clouds) the morrow caught his eye, [scene,
Or that 'twas chance, or some remember'd
That raised his arm to point where such had been, [away,
Scarce Kaled seem'd to know, but turned
As if his heart abhorr'd that coming day,
And shrunk his glance before that morning light
To look on Lara's brow—where all grew night.
Yet sense seem'd left, though better were its loss [cross,
For when one near display'd the absolving
And proffer'd to his touch the holy bead,
Of which his parting soul might own the need,
He look'd upon it with an eye profane,
And smiled—Heaven pardon! if 'twere with disdain: [drew
And Kaled, though he spoke not, nor with-
From Lara's face his fix'd despairing view,
With brow repulsive, and with gesture swift,
Flung back the hand which held the sacred gift,
As if such but disturb'd the expiring man,
Nor seemed to know his life but *then* began—
That life of Immortality, secure [sure;
To none, save them whose faith in Christ is

XX.

But gasping heaved the breath that Lara drew,
And dull the film along his dim eye grew:
His limbs stretch'd fluttering, and his head drooped o'er
The weak yet still untiring knee that bore;
He press'd the hand he held upon his heart—

It beats no more, but Kaled will not part
With the cold grasp, but feels, and feels in vain,
For that faint throb which answers not again.
"It beats!"—Away, thou dreamer, he is gone—
It once was Lara which thou look'st upon.

XXI.

He gazed, as if not yet had pass'd away
The haughty spirit of that humble clay;
And those around have roused him from his trance,
But cannot tear from thence his fixed glance;
And when, in raising him from where he bore
Within his arms the form that felt no more,
He saw the head his breast would still sustain
Roll down like earth to earth upon the plain,
He did not dash himself thereby, nor tear
The glossy tendrils of his raven hair, [fell,
But strove to stand and gaze, but reel'd and
Scarce breathing more than that he loved so well.
Than that *he* lov'd! Oh! never yet beneath
The breast of man such trusty love may breathe!
That trying moment hath at once reveal'd
The secret long and yet but half conceal'd;
In baring to revive that lifeless breast,
Its grief seem'd ended, but the sex confess'd;
And life return'd, and Kaled felt no shame—
What now to her was Womanhood or Fame?

XXII.

And Lara sleeps not where his fathers sleep,
But where he died his grave was dug as deep;
Nor is his mortal slumber less profound,
Though priest nor bless'd, nor marble deck'd the mound;
And he was mourn'd by one whose quiet grief,
Less loud, outlasts a people's for their chief.
Vain was all question ask'd her of the past,
And vain e'en menace—silent to the last;
She told nor whence nor why she left behind
Her all for one who seem'd but little kind.
Why did she love him? Curious fool—be still—
Is human love the growth of human will?
To her he might be gentleness: the stern
Have deeper thoughts than your dull eyes discern; [how
And when they love, your smilers guess not
Beats the strong heart though less the lips avow. [chain
They were not common links that form'd the
That bound to Lara Kaled's heart and brain;
But that wild tale she brook'd not to unfold,
And seal'd is now each lip that could have told.

XXIII.

They laid him in the earth, and on his breast,
Besides the wound that sent his soul to rest,
They found the scatter'd dints of many a scar,
Which were not planted there in recent war:
Where'er had pass'd his summer years of life,
It seems they vanish'd in a land of strife;
But all unknown his glory or his guilt, [spilt;
These only told that somewhere blood was
And Ezzelin, who might have spoken the past, [last.
Return'd no more—that night appear'd his

XXIV.

Upon that night (a peasant's is the tale)
A Serf that cross'd the intervening vale,*
When Cynthia's light almost gave way to morn,
And nearly veil'd in mist her warning horn;
A Serf, that rose betimes to thread the wood,
And hew the bough that bought his children's food,
Pass'd by the river that divides the plain
Of Otho's lands and Lara's broad domain:
He heard a tramp—a horse and horseman broke
From out the wood—before him was a cloak
Wrapt round some burthen at his saddle-bow,
Bent was his head, and hidden was his brow.
Roused by the sudden sight at such a time,
And some foreboding that it might be crime,
Himself unheeded watch'd the stranger's course, [horse,
Who reach'd the river, bounded from his
And lifting thence the burthen which he bore,
Heaved up the bank and dash'd it from the shore, [seem'd to watch,
Then paused, and look'd, and turn'd, and
And still another hurried glance would snatch, [flow'd,
And follow with his step the stream that
As if even yet too much its surface show'd:
At once he started, stoop'd, around him strown
The winter floods had scatter'd heaps of stone;
Of these the heaviest thence he gather'd there,
And slung them with a more than common care.
Meantime the Serf had crept to where, unseen,
Himself might safely mark what this might mean:
He caught a glimpse, as of a floating breast,
And something glitter'd starlike on the vest;
But ere he well could mark the buoyant trunk,
A massy fragment smote it, and it sunk;
It rose again, but indistinct to view,
And left the waters of a purple hue,
Then deeply disappear'd: the horseman gazed,
Till ebb'd the latest eddy it had raised;
Then, turning, vaulted on his pawing steed,
And instant spurr'd him into panting speed.
His face was mask'd—the features of the dead
If dead it were, escaped the observer's dread,
But if, in sooth, a star its bosom bore,
Such is the badge that knighthood ever wore,
And such 'tis known Sir Ezzelin had worn
Upon the night that led to such a morn.
If thus he perish'd, Heaven receive his soul,
His undiscover'd limbs to ocean roll;
And charity upon the hope would dwell,
It was not Lara's hand by which he fell.

* See Notes at the end of the volume.

XXV.

And Kaled—Lara—Ezzelin, are gone,
Alike without their monumental stone!
The first, all efforts vainly strove to wean
From lingering where her chieftain's blood had been:
Grief had so tamed a spirit once too proud,
Her tears were few, her wailing never loud;
But furious would you tear her from the spot
Where yet she scarce believed that he was not,
Her eye shot forth with all the living fire
That haunts the tigress in her whelpless ire;
But left to waste her weary moments there,
She talk'd all idly unto shapes of air,
Such as the busy brain of Sorrow paints,
And woos to listen to her fond complaints;
And she would sit beneath the very tree,
Where lay his drooping head upon her knee;
And in that posture where she saw him fall,
His words, his looks, his dying grasp recall;
And she had shorn, but saved her raven hair,
And oft would snatch it from her bosom there,
And fold and press it gently to the ground,
As if she stanch'd anew some phantom's wound.
Herself would question, and for him reply;
Then rising, start, and beckon him to fly
From some imagined spectre in pursuit;
Then seat her down upon some linden's root,
And hide her visage with her meagre hand,
Or trace strange characters along the sand.
This could not last—she lies by him she loved;
Her tale untold—her truth too dearly proved.

THE SIEGE OF CORINTH.

1816.

TO

JOHN HOBHOUSE, ESQ.,

THIS POEM IS INSCRIBED BY HIS

January 22nd, 1816. FRIEND.

ADVERTISEMENT.

"THE grand army of the Turks (in 1715), under the Prime Vizier, to open to themselves a way into the heart of the Morea and to form the siege of Napoli di Romania, the most considerable place in all that country,* thought it best in the first place to attack Corinth, upon which they made several storms. The garrison being weakened, and the governor seeing it was impossible to hold out against so mighty a force, thought it fit to beat a parley: but while they were treating about the articles, one of the magazines in the Turkish camp, wherein they had six hundred barrels of powder, blew up by accident, whereby six or seven hundred men were killed; which so enraged the infidels, that they would not grant any capitulation, but stormed the place with so much fury, that they took it, and put most of the garrison, with Signor Minotti, the governor, to the sword. The rest, with Antonio Bembo, proveditor extraordinary, were made prisoners of war."—"History of the Turks," vol. iii. p. 151.

IN the year since Jesus died for men,†
Eighteen hundred years and ten,
We were a gallant company,
Riding o'er land, and sailing o'er sea.
Oh! but we went merrily!
We forded the river, and clomb the high hill,
Never our steeds for a day stood still;
Whether we lay in the cave or the shed,
Our sleep fell soft on the hardest bed:
Whether we couch'd in our rough capote,
On the rougher plank of our gliding boat,
Or stretch'd on the beach, or our saddles spread
As a pillow beneath the resting head,
Fresh we woke upon the morrow:
All our thoughts and words had scope,
We had health and we had hope,
Toil and travel, but no sorrow.
We were of all tongues and creeds;—
Some were those who counted beads,
Some of mosque, and some of church,
And some, or I mis-say, of neither;
Yet through the wide world might ye search,
Nor find a motlier crew or blither.
But some are dead, and some are gone,
And some are scatter'd and alone,
And some are rebels on the hills*
That look upon Epirus' valleys,
Where freedom still at moments rallies,
And pays in blood oppression's ills;
And some are in a far countree,
And some all restlessly at home;
But never more, oh! never, we
Shall meet to revel and to roam.

But those hardy days flew cheerily,
And when they now fall drearily,
My thoughts, like swallows, skim the main,
And bear my spirit back again
Over the earth, and through the air,
A wild bird and a wanderer.
'Tis this that ever wakes my strain,
And oft, too oft, implores again

* Napoli di Romania is not now the most considerable place in the Morea, but Tripolitza, where the Pacha resides and maintains his government. Napoli is near Argos. I visited all three in 1810–11; and in the course of journeying through the country from my first arrival in 1809, I crossed the Isthmus eight times in my way from Attica to the Morea, over the mountains; or in the other direction, when passing from the Gulf of Athens to that of Lepanto. Both the routes are picturesque and beautiful, though very different: that by sea has more sameness; but the voyage being always within sight of land, and often very near it, presents many attractive views of the islands Salamis, Ægina, Poros, etc, and the coast of the Continent.

† These lines to Section I. were omitted by Byron in the first editions of this poem.

* [The last tidings recently heard of Dervish (one of the Arnaouts who followed me) state him to be in revolt upon the mountains, at the head of some of the bands common in that country in times of trouble.]

The few who may endure my lay,
To follow me so far away.
Stranger—wilt thou follow now,
And sit with me on Acro-Corinth's brow?

I.

Many a vanish'd year and age,
And tempest's breath, and battle's rage,
Have swept o'er Corinth; yet she stands,
A fortress form'd to Freedom's hands.
The whirlwind's wrath, the earthquake's shock,
Have left untouch'd her hoary rock,
The keystone of a land, which still,
Though fall'n, looks proudly on that hill,
The landmark to the double tide
That purpling rolls on either side,
As if their waters chafed to meet,
Yet pause and crouch beneath her feet.
But could the blood before her shed
Since first Timoleon's brother bled,*
Or baffled Persia's despot fled,
Arise from out the earth which drank
The stream of slaughter as it sank,
That sanguine ocean would o'erflow
Her isthmus idly spread below:
Or could the bones of all the slain,
Who perish'd there, be piled again,
That rival pyramid would rise
More mountain-like, through those clear skies,
Than yon tower-capp'd Acropolis,
Which seems the very clouds to kiss.

II.

On dun Cithæron's ridge appears
The gleam of twice ten thousand spears;
And downward to the Isthmian plain,
From shore to shore of either main,
The tent is pitch'd, the crescent shines
Along the Moslem's leaguering lines;
And the dusk Spahi's bands advance
Beneath each bearded pacha's glance;
And far and wide as eye can reach
The turban'd cohorts throng the beach;
And there the Arab's camel kneels,
And there his steed the Tartar wheels:
The Turcoman hath left his herd,†
The sabre round his loins to gird;
And there the volleying thunders pour,
Till waves grow smoother to the roar.
The trench is dug, the cannon's breath
Wings the far hissing globe of death;
Fast whirl the fragments from the wall,
Which crumbles with the ponderous ball:
And from that wall the foe replies,
O'er dusty plains and smoky skies,
With fires that answer fast and well
The summons of the Infidel.

III.

But near and nearest to the wall
Of those who work and wish its fall,
With deeper skill in war's black art
Than Othman's sons, and high of heart
As any chief that ever stood
Triumphant in the fields of blood,
From post to post, and deed to deed,
Fast spurring on his reeking steed,
Where sallying ranks the trench assail,
And make the foremost Moslem quail,
Or where the battery, guarded well,
Remains as yet impregnable,
Alighting cheerily to inspire
The soldier slackening in his fire;
The first and freshest of the host
Which Stamboul's sultan there can boast,
To guide the follower o'er the field,
To point the tube, the lance to wield,
Or whirl around the bickering blade;—
Was Alp, the Adrian renegade!

IV.

From Venice—once a race of worth
His gentle sires—he drew his birth;
But late an exile from her shore,
Against his countrymen he bore
The arms they taught to bear; and now
The turban girt his shaven brow.
Through many a change had Corinth pass'd
With Greece to Venice' rule at last;
And here, before her walls, with those
To Greece and Venice equal foes,
He stood a foe, with all the zeal
Which young and fiery converts feel,
Within whose heated bosom throngs
The memory of a thousand wrongs.
To him had Venice ceased to be
Her ancient civic boast—"The Free";
And in the palace of St. Mark
Unnamed accusers in the dark
Within the "Lion's mouth" had placed
A charge against him uneffaced:
He fled in time, and saved his life,
To waste his future years in strife,
That taught his land how great her loss
In him who triumph'd o'er the Cross,
'Gainst which he rear'd the Crescent high,
And battled to avenge or die.

V.

Coumourgi—he whose closing scene*
Adorn'd the triumph of Eugene,
When on Carlowitz' bloody plain,
The last and mightiest of the slain,
He sank, regretting not to die,
But cursed the Christian's victory—
Coumourgi—can his glory cease,

* [Timoleon killed his brother to save Corinth from being enslaved by him. He had previously saved Timophanes' life in battle.]

† The life of the Turcomans is wandering and patriarchal; they dwell in tents.

* Ali Coumourgi, the favorite of three Sultans, and Grand Vizier to Achmet III., after recovering Peloponnesus from the Venetians in one campaign, was mortally wounded in the next, against the Germans, at the battle of Peterwaradin (in the plain of Carlowitz), in Hungary, endeavoring to rally his guards. He died of his wounds next day. His last order was the decapitation of General Breuner, and some other German prisoners; and his last words, "Oh, that I could thus serve all the Christian dogs!" a speech and act not unlike one of Caligula. He was a young man of great ambition and unbounded presumption; on being told that Prince Eugene, then opposed to him, "was a great general," he said, "I shall become a greater, and at his expense."

That latest conqueror of Greece,
Till Christian hands to Greece restore
The freedom Venice gave of yore?
A hundred years have roll'd away
Since he refix'd the Moslem's sway;
And now he led the Mussulman,
And gave the guidance of the van
To Alp, who well repaid the trust
By cities levell'd with the dust;
And proved, by many a deed of death,
How firm his heart in novel faith.

VI.

The walls grew weak; and fast and hot
Against them pour'd the ceaseless shot,
With unabating fury sent
From battery to battlement;
And thunder-like the pealing din
Rose from each heated culverin;
And here and there some crackling dome
Was fired before the exploding bomb;
And as the fabric sank beneath
The shattering shell's volcanic breath,
In red and wreathing columns flash'd
The flame, as loud the ruin crash'd,
Or into countless meteors driven,
Its earth-stars melted into heaven;
Whose clouds that day grew doubly dun,
Impervious to the hidden sun,
With volumed smoke that slowly grew
To one wide sky of sulphurous hue.

VII.

But not for vengeance, long delay'd,
Alone, did Alp, the renegade,
The Moslem warriors sternly teach
His skill to pierce the promised breach:
Within these walls a maid was pent
His hope would win without consent
Of that inexorable sire,
Whose heart refused him in its ire,
When Alp, beneath his Christian name,
Her virgin hand aspired to claim.
In happier mood, and earlier time,
While unimpeach'd for traitorous crime,
Gayest in gondola or hall,
He glitter'd through the Carnival;
And tuned the softest serenade
That e'er on Adria's waters play'd
At midnight to Italian maid.

VIII.

And many deem'd her heart was won;
For sought by numbers, given to none,
Had young Francesca's hand remain'd
Still by the church's bonds unchain'd:
And when the Adriatic bore
Lanciotto to the Paynim shore,
Her wonted smiles were seen to fail,
And pensive wax'd the maid and pale;
More constant at confessional,
More rare at masque and festival;
Or seen at such, with downcast eyes,
Which conquer'd hearts they ceased to prize:
With listless look she seems to gaze:
With humbler care her form arrays;
Her voice less lively in the song;
Her step, though light, less fleet among
The pairs, on whom the Morning's glance
Breaks, yet unsated with the dance.

IX.

Sent by the state to guard the land,
(Which, wrested from the Moslem's hand,
While Sobieski tamed his pride
By Buda's wall and Danube's side,
The chiefs of Venice wrung away
From Patra to Eubœa's bay,)
Minotti held in Corinth's towers
The Doge's delegated powers,
While yet the pitying eye of Peace
Smiled o'er her long-forgotten Greece;
And ere that faithless truce was broke
Which freed her from the unchristian yoke,
With him his gentle daughter came;
Nor there, since Menelaus' dame
Forsook her lord and land, to prove
What woes await on lawless love,
Had fairer form adorn'd the shore
Than she, the matchless stranger, bore.

X.

The wall is rent, the ruins yawn;
And with to-morrow's earliest dawn,
O'er the disjointed mass shall vault
The foremost of the fierce assault.
The bands are rank'd; the chosen van
Of Tartar and of Mussulman,
The full of hope, misnamed "forlorn,"
Who hold the thought of death in scorn,
And win their way with falchion's force,
Or pave the path with many a corse,
O'er which the following brave may rise,
Their stepping-stone—the last who dies!

XI.

'Tis midnight: on the mountains brown
The cold, round moon shines deeply down;
Blue roll the waters, blue the sky
Spreads like an ocean hung on high,
Bespangled with those isles of light,
So wildly, spiritually bright;
Who ever gazed upon them shining
And turn'd to earth without repining,
Nor wish'd for wings to flee away,
And mix with their eternal ray?
The waves on either shore lay there
Calm, clear, and azure as the air;
And scarce their foam the pebbles shook,
But murmur'd meekly as the brook.
The winds were pillow'd on the waves;
The banners droop'd along their staves,
And, as they fell around them furling,
Above them shone the crescent curling;
And that deep silence was unbroke,
Save where the watch his signal spoke,
Save where the steed neigh'd oft and shrill,
And echo answer'd from the hill,
And the wide hum of that wild host
Rustled like leaves from coast to coast,
As rose the Muezzin's voice in air
In midnight call to wonted prayer;

It rose, that chanted mournful strain,
Like some lone spirit's o'er the plain:
'Twas musical, but sadly sweet,
Such as when winds and harp-strings meet,
And take a long unmeasured tone,
To mortal minstrelsy unknown.
It seem'd to those within the wall
A cry prophetic of their fall;
It struck even the besieger's ear
With something ominous and drear,
An undefined and sudden thrill,
Which makes the heart a moment still.
Then beat with quicker pulse, ashamed
Of that strange sense its silence framed;
Such as a sudden passing-bell
Wakes, though but for a stranger's knell.

XII.

The tent of Alp was on the shore;
The sound was hush'd, the prayer was o'er;
The watch was set, the night-round made,
All mandates issued and obey'd:
'Tis but another anxious night,
His pains the morrow may requite
With all revenge and love can pay,
In guerdon for their long delay.
Few hours remain, and he hath need
Of rest, to nerve for many a deed
Of slaughter; but within his soul
The thoughts like troubled waters roll.
He stood alone among the host;
Not his the loud fanatic boast
To plant the crescent o'er the cross,
Or risk a life with little loss,
Secure in paradise to be
By Houris loved immortally:
Nor his, what burning patriots feel,
The stern exaltedness of zeal,
Profuse of blood, untired in toil,
When battling on the parent soil.
He stood alone—a renegade
Against the country he betray'd;
He stood alone amidst his band,
Without a trusted heart or hand:
They follow'd him, for he was brave,
And great the spoil he got and gave;
They crouch'd to him, for he had skill
To warp and wield the vulgar will:
But still his Christian origin
With them was little less than sin.
They envied even the faithless fame
He earn'd beneath a Moslem name;
Since he, their mightiest chief, had been
In youth a bitter Nazarene.
They did not know how pride can stoop,
When baffled feelings withering droop;
They did not know how hate can burn
In hearts once changed from soft to stern;
Nor all the false and fatal zeal
The convert of revenge can feel.
He ruled them—man may rule the worst,
By ever daring to be first;
So lions o'er the jackal sway;
The jackal points, he fells the prey,
Then on the vulgar yelling press,
To gorge the relics of success.

XIII.

His head grows fever'd, and his pulse
The quick successive throbs convulse:
In vain from side to side he throws
His form, in courtship of repose;
Or if he dozed, a sound, a start
Awoke him with a sunken heart.
The turban on his hot brow press'd,
The mail weigh'd lead-like on his breast,
Though oft and long beneath its weight
Upon his eyes had slumber sate,
Without or couch or canopy,
Except a rougher field and sky
Than now might yield a warrior's bed,
Than now along the heaven was spread.
He could not rest, he could not stay
Within his tent to wait for day,
But walk'd him forth along the sand,
Where thousand sleepers strew'd the strand.
What pillow'd them? and why should he
More wakeful than the humblest be,
Since more their peril, worse their toil?
And yet they fearless dream of spoil;
While he alone, where thousands pass'd
A night of sleep, perchance their last,
In sickly vigil wander'd on,
And envied all he gazed upon.

XIV.

He felt his soul become more light
Beneath the freshness of the night.
Cool was the silent sky, though calm,
And bathed his brow with airy balm:
Behind, the camp—before him lay,
In many a winding creek and bay,
Lepanto's gulf; and, on the brow
Of Delphi's hill, unshaken snow,
High and eternal, such as shone
Through thousand summers brightly gone,
Along the gulf, the mount, the clime;
It will not melt, like man, to time:
Tyrant and slave are swept away,
Less form'd to wear before the ray;
But that white veil, the lightest, frailest,
Which on the mighty mount thou hailest,
While tower and tree are torn and rent,
Shines o'er its craggy battlement;
In form a peak, in height a cloud,
In texture like a hovering shroud,
Thus high by parting Freedom spread,
As from her fond abode she fled,
And linger'd on the spot, where long
Her prophet spirit spake in song.
Oh! still her step at moments falters
O'er wither'd fields, and ruin'd altars,
And fain would wake, in souls too broken,
By pointing to each glorious token:
But vain her voice, till better days
Dawn in those yet remember'd rays,
Which shone upon the Persian flying,
And saw the Spartan smile in dying.

XV.

Not mindless of these mighty times
Was Alp, despite his flight and crimes;
And through this night, as on he wander'd,

And o'er the past and present ponder'd,
And thought upon the glorious dead
Who there in better cause had bled,
He felt how faint and feebly dim
The fame that could accrue to him,
Who cheer'd the band, and waved the sword,
A traitor in a turban'd horde;
And led them to the lawless siege,
Whose best success was sacrilege.
Not so had those his fancy number'd,
The chiefs whose dust around him slumber'd;
Their phalanx marshall'd on the plain,
Whose bulwarks were not then in vain.
They fell devoted, but undying;
The very gale their names seem'd sighing:
The waters murmur'd of their name;
The woods were peopled with their fame;
The silent pillar, lone and grey,
Claim'd kindred with their sacred clay;
Their spirits wrapt the dusky mountain,
Their memory sparkled o'er the fountain:
The meanest rill, the mightiest river,
Roll'd mingling with their fame forever.
Despite of every yoke she bears,
That land is glory's still, and theirs!
'Tis still a watchword to the earth:
When man would do a deed of worth
He points to Greece, and turns to tread,
So sanction'd, on the tyrant's head:
He looks to her, and rushes on
Where life is lost, or freedom won.

XVI.

Still by the shore Alp mutely mused,
And woo'd the freshness night diffused.
There shrinks no ebb in that tideless sea,*
Which changeless rolls eternally; [mood,
So that wildest of waves, in their angriest
Scarce break on the bounds of the land for a rood;
And the powerless moon beholds them flow,
Heedless if she come or go:
Calm or high, in main or bay,
On their course she hath no sway.
The rock unworn its base doth bare,
And looks o'er the surf, but it comes not there;
And the fringe of the foam may be seen below,
On the line that it left long ages ago:
A smooth short space of yellow sand
Between it and the greener land.
He wander'd on, along the beach,
Till within the range of a carbine's reach
Of the leaguer'd wall; but they saw him not,
Or how could he 'scape from the hostile shot?
Did traitors lurk in the Christian's hold?
Were their hands grown stiff, or their hearts wax'd cold?
I know not, in sooth; but from yonder wall
There flash'd no fire, and there hiss'd no ball,
Though he stood beneath the bastion's frown;
That flank'd the seaward gate of the town;
Though he heard the sound, and could al-
The sullen words of the sentinel, [most tell

* The reader need hardly be reminded that there are no perceptible tides in the Mediterranean.

As his measured step on the stone below
Clank'd, as he paced it to and fro;
And he saw the lean dogs beneath the wall
Hold o'er the dead their carnival,
Gorging and growling o'er carcase and limb;
They were too busy to bark at him! [flesh,
From a Tartar's skull they had stripp'd the
As ye peel the fig when its fruit is fresh;
And their white tusks crunch'd o'er the whiter skull,* [edge grew dull,
As it slipp'd through their jaws when their
As they lazily mumbled the bones of the dead,
When they scarce could rise from the spot where they fed;
So well had they broken a lingering fast
With those who had fall'n for that night's repast. [the sand,
And Alp knew, by the turbans that roll'd on
The foremost of these were the best of his band; [wear,
Crimson and green were the shawls of their
And each scalp had a single long tuft of hair,†
All the rest was shaven and bare.
The scalps were in the wild dog's maw,
The hair was tangled round his jaw. [gulf,
But close by the shore, on the edge of the
There sat a vulture flapping a wolf,
Who had stolen from the hills, but kept away,
Scared by the dogs from the human prey;
But he seized on his share of a steed that lay,
Pick'd by the birds, on the sands of the bay.

XVII.

Alp turn'd him from the sickening sight:
Never had shaken his nerves in fight;
But he better could brook to behold the dying,
Deep in the tide of their warm blood lying,
Scorch'd with the death-thirst, and writhing in vain, [pain,
Than the perishing dead who are past all
There is something of pride in the perilous hour, [lower;
Whate'er be the shape in which death may
For Fame is there to say who bleeds,
And Honor's eye on daring deeds!
But when all is past, it is humbling to tread
O'er the weltering field of the tombless dead,
And see worms of the earth, and fowls of the
Beasts of the forest, all gathering there; [air,
All regarding man as their prey,
All rejoicing in his decay.

XVIII.

There is a temple in ruin stands,
Fashion'd by long-forgotten hands;
Two or three columns, and many a stone,
Marble and granite, with grass o'ergrown!
Out upon Time! it will leave no more
Of the things to come than the things before!

* This spectacle I have seen, such as described, beneath the wall at the Seraglio at Constantinople, in the little cavities worn by the Bosphorus in the rock, a narrow terrace of which projects between the wall and the water. I think the fact is also mentioned in Hobhouse's "Travels." The bodies were probably those of some refractory Janizaries.

† This tuft, or long lock, is left from a superstition that Mahomet will draw them into paradise by it.

Out upon Time! who forever will leave
But enough of the past for the future to grieve [must be:
O'er that which hath been, and o'er that which
What we have seen, our sons shall see;
Remnants of things that have pass'd away,
Fragments of stone, rear'd by creatures of clay!

XIX.

He sate him down at a pillar's base,
And pass'd his hand athwart his face;
Like one in dreary musing mood,
Declining was his attitude;
His head was drooping on his breast,
Fever'd, throbbing, and opprest;
And o'er his brow, so downward bent,
Oft his beating fingers went,
Hurriedly, as you may see
Your own run over the ivory key,
Ere the measured tone is taken
By the chords you would awaken.
There he sate all heavily,
As he heard the night-wind sigh.
Was it the wind, through some hollow stone,*
Sent that soft and tender moan?
He lifted his head, and he look'd on the sea,
But it was unrippled as glass may be;
He look'd on the long grass—it waved not a blade;
How was that gentle sound convey'd?
He look'd to the banners—each flag lay still,
So did the leaves on Cithæron's hill,
And he felt not a breath come over his cheek;
What did that sudden sound bespeak?
He turn'd to the left—is he sure of sight?
There sate a lady, youthful and bright!

XX.

He started up with more of fear
Than if an armed foe were near.
"God of my fathers! what is here?
Who art thou, and wherefore sent
So near a hostile armament?"
His trembling hands refused to sign
The cross he deem'd no more divine:
He had resumed it in that hour,
But conscience wrung away the power.
He gazed, he saw; he knew the face
Of beauty, and the form of grace,
It was Francesca by his side,
The maid who might have been his bride!

The rose was yet upon her cheek,
But mellow'd with a tenderer streak:
Where was the play of her soft lips fled?
Gone was the smile that enliven'd their red.
The ocean's calm within their view,
Beside her eye had less of blue;
But like that cold wave it stood still,
And its glance, though clear, was chill.
Around her form a thin robe twining,
Nought conceal'd her bosom shining;
Through the parting of her hair,
Floating darkly downward there,
Her rounded arm show'd white and bare.
And ere yet she made reply,
Once she raised her hand on high;
It was so wan and transparent of hue,
You might have seen the moon shine through.

XXI.

"I come from my rest to him I love best,
That I may be happy, and he may be blest.
I have pass'd the guards, the gate, the wall;
Sought thee in safety through foes and all.
'Tis said the lion will turn and flee
From a maid in the pride of her purity: [good
And the Power on high that can shield the
Thus from the tyrant of the wood,
Hath extended its mercy to guard me as well
From the hands of the leaguering infidel.
I come—and if I come in vain,
Never, oh never, we meet again!
Thou hast done a fearful deed
In falling away from thy fathers' creed:
But dash that turban to earth, and sign
The sign of the cross, and forever be mine;
Wring the black drop from thy heart,
And to-morrow unites us no more to part."

"And where shall our bridal-couch be spread?
In the midst of the dying and the dead?
For to-morrow we give to the slaughter and flame [name.
The sons and the shrines of the Christian
None, save thou and thine, I've sworn,
Shall be left upon the morn:
But thee I will bear to a lovely spot,
Where our hands shall be join'd, and our sorrow forgot.
There thou shalt yet be my bride,
When once again I've quell'd the pride
Of Venice; and her hated race
Have felt the arm they would debase.
Scourge, with the whip of scorpions, those
Whom vice and envy made my foes."

Upon his hand she laid her own— [bone,
Light was the touch, but it thrill'd to the
And shot a chillness to his heart,
Which fix'd him beyond the power to start.
Though slight was that grasp so mortal cold,
He could not loose him from its hold:
But never did clasp of one so dear
Strike on the pulse with such feeling of fear,
As those thin fingers, long and white, [night.
Froze through his blood by their touch that
The feverish glow of his brow was gone,
And his heart sank so still that it felt like stone,
As he look'd on the face and beheld its hue,
So deeply changed from what he knew:
Fair but faint—without the ray
Of mind, that made each feature play
Like sparkling waves on a sunny day;
And her motionless lips lay still as death,
And her words came forth without her breath,

* I must here acknowledge a close though unintentional resemblance in these twelve lines to a passage in an unpublished poem of Mr. Coleridge, called "Christabel." It was not till after these lines were written that I heard that wild and singularly original and beautiful poem recited: and the MS. of that production I never saw till very recently, by the kindness of Mr. Coleridge himself, who, I hope, is convinced that I have not been a wilful plagiarist.

And there rose not a heave o'er her bosom's swell,
And there seem'd not a pulse in her veins to dwell:
Though her eye shone out, yet the lids were fix'd,
And the glance that it gave was wild and unmix'd
With aught of change, as the eyes may seem
Of the restless who walk in a troubled dream,
Like the figures on arras, that gloomily glare,
Stirr'd by the breath of the wintry air,
So seen by the dying lamp's fitful light,
Lifeless, but life-like, and awful to sight;
As they seem through the dimness, about to come down frown;
From the shadowy wall where their images
Fearfully flitting to and fro,
As the gusts on the tapestry come and go.

"If not for love of me be given
Thus much, then for the love of Heaven,—
Again I say—that turban tear
From off thy faithless brow, and swear
Thine injured country's sons to spare,
Or thou art lost; and never shalt see—
Not earth—that's past—but heaven or me.
If this thou dost accord, albeit
A heavy doom 'tis thine to meet,
That doom shall half absolve thy sin,
And mercy's gate may receive thee within.
But pause one moment more, and take
The curse of Him thou did'st forsake;
And look once more to heaven, and see
Its love forever shut from thee.
There is a light cloud by the moon*—
'Tis passing, and will pass full soon—
If, by the time its vapory sail
Hath ceased her shaded orb to veil,
Thy heart within thee is not changed,
Then God and man are both avenged;
Dark will thy doom be, darker still
Thine immortality of ill."

Alp look'd to heaven, and saw on high
The sign she spake of in the sky;
But his heart was swoll'n, and turn'd aside,
By deep interminable pride.
This first false passion of his breast
Roll'd like a torrent o'er the rest.
He sue for mercy! *He* dismay'd
By wild words of a timid maid!
He wrong'd by Venice, vow to save
Her sons, devoted to the grave!
No—though that cloud were thunder's worst,
And charged to crush him—let it burst!

He look'd upon it earnestly,
Without an accent of reply;
He watch'd it passing; it is flown:
Full on his eye the clear moon shone,
And thus he spake: "Whate'er my fate,
I am no changeling—'tis too late:
The reed in storms may bow and quiver,
Then rise again; the tree must shiver.
What Venice made me I must be,
Her foe in all, save love to thee:
But thou art safe: oh, fly with me!"
He turn'd, but she is gone!
Nothing is there but the column stone.
Hath she sunk in the earth, or melted in air?
He saw not—he knew not—but nothing is there.

XXII.

The night is past, and shines the sun
As if that morn were a jocund one.
Lightly and brightly breaks away
The morning from her mantle grey,
And the noon will look on a sultry day.
Hark to the trump and the drum,
And the mournful sound of the barbarous horn, borne,
And the flap of the banners, that flit as they're borne,
And the neigh of the steed, and the multitude's hum, come!"
And the clash and the shout, "They come, they come!"
The horsetails are pluck'd from the ground,* and the sword for the word.
From its sheath; and they form, and but wait
Tartar, and Spahi, and Turcoman,
Strike your tents, and throng to the van;
Mount ye, spur ye, skirr the plain,
That the fugitive may flee in vain, escape,
When he breaks from the town; and none
Aged or young, in the Christian shape;
While your fellows on foot, in a fiery mass,
Bloodstain the breach through which they pass. rein;
The steeds are all bridled, and snort to the
Curved is each neck, and flowing each mane;
White is the foam of their champ on the bit:
The spears are uplifted; the matches are lit;
The cannon are pointed, and ready to roar,
And crush the wall they have crumbled before:
Forms in his phalanx each Janizar; fore:
Alp at their head; his right arm is bare,
So is the blade of his scimetar;
The khan and the pachas are all at their post,
The vizier himself at the head of the host.
When the culverin's signal is fired, then on;
Leave not in Corinth a living one—
A priest at her altars, a chief in her halls,
A hearth in her mansions, a stone on her walls.
God and the prophet—Alla Hu!
Up to the skies with that wild halloo!
"There the breach lies for passage, the ladder to scale; should ye fail!
And your hands on your sabres, and how
He who first downs with the red cross may crave have!"
His heart's dearest wish: let him ask it and
Thus utter'd Coumourgi, the dauntless vizier;
The reply was the brandish of sabre and spear,
And the shout of fierce thousands in joyous
Silence—hark to the signal—fire! fire:

* I have been told that the idea expressed in this and the five following lines has been admired by those whose approbation is valuable. I am glad of it; but it is not original—at least not mine; it may be found much better expressed in pages 182-184 of the English version of "Vathek" (I forget the precise page of the French), a work to which I have before referred; and never recur to, or read, without a renewal of gratification.

* The horsetail, fixed upon a lance, a Pacha's standard.

XXIII.

As the wolves, that headlong go
On the stately buffalo,
Though with fiery eyes and angry roar,
And hoofs that stamp and horns that gore,
He tramples on earth, or tosses on high,
The foremost, who rush on his strength but die;
Thus against the wall they went,
Thus the first were backward bent;
Many a bosom, sheathed in brass,
Strewed the earth like broken glass,
Shiver'd by the shot that tore
The ground whereon they moved no more:
Even as they fell, in files they lay,
Like the mower's grass at the close of day,
When his work is done on the levell'd plain;
Such was the fall of the foremost slain.

XXIV.

As the spring-tides, with heavy plash,
From the cliffs invading dash
Huge fragments, sapp'd by the ceaseless flow,
Till white and thundering down they go,
Like the avalanche's snow
On the Alpine's vales below;
Thus at length, outbreathed and worn,
Corinth's sons were downward borne
By the long and oft renew'd
Charge of the Moslem multitude.
In firmness they stood, and in masses they fell,
Heap'd by the host of the infidel,
Hand to hand, and foot to foot:
Nothing there, save death, was mute;
Stroke, and thrust, and flash, and cry
For quarter, or for victory,
Mingle there with the volleying thunder,
Which makes the distant cities wonder
How the sounding battle goes,
If with them, or for their foes;
If they must mourn, or may rejoice,
In that annihilating voice,
Which pierces the deep hills through and through
With an echo dread and new:
You might have heard it, on that day,
O'er Salamis and Megara;
(We have heard the hearers say,)
Even unto Piræus' bay.

XXV.

From the point of encountering blades to the hilt,
Sabres and swords with blood were gilt;
But the rampart is won, and the spoil begun,
And all but the after carnage done.
Shriller shrieks now mingling come
From within the plunder'd dome:
Hark to the haste of flying feet,
That splash in the blood of the slippery street,
But here and there, where 'vantage ground
Against the foe may still be found,
Desperate groups, of twelve or ten,
Make a pause, and turn again—
With banded backs against the wall,
Fiercely stand, or fighting fall.

There stood an old man, his hairs were white,
But his veteran arm was full of might:
So gallantly bore he the brunt of the fray,
The dead before him, on that day,
In a semicircle lay:
Still he combated unwounded,
Though retreating, unsurrounded.
Many a scar of former fight
Lurk'd beneath his corslet bright;
But of every wound his body bore,
Each and all had been ta'en before:
Though aged, he was so iron of limb,
Few of our youth could cope with him;
And the foes, whom he singly kept at bay,
Outnumber'd his thin hairs of silver grey.
From right to left his sabre swept:
Many an Othman mother wept
Sons that were unborn, when dipp'd
His weapon first in Moslem gore,
Ere his years could count a score.
Of all he might have been the sire
Who fell that day beneath his ire:
For, sonless left long years ago,
His wrath made many a childless foe;
And since the day, when in the strait *
His only boy had met his fate,
His parent's iron hand did doom
More than a human hecatomb.
If shades by carnage be appeased,
Patroclus' spirit less was pleased
Than his, Minotti's son, who died
Where Asia's bounds and ours divide.
Buried he lay, where thousands before
For thousands of years were inhumed on the shore;
What of them is left, to tell
Where they lie and how they fell?
Not a stone on their turf, nor a bone in their graves;
But they live in the verse that immortally saves.

XXVI.

Hark to the Allah shout! a band
Of the Mussulman bravest and best is at hand:
Their leader's nervous arm is bare,
Swifter to smite, and never to spare—
Unclothed to the shoulder it waves them on;
Thus in the fight is he ever known:
Others a gaudier garb may show,
To tempt the spoil of the greedy foe;
Many a hand's on a richer hilt,
But none on a steel more ruddily gilt;
Many a loftier turban may wear—
Alp is but known by the white arm bare:
Look through the thick of the fight, 'tis there!
There is not a standard on that shore
So well advanced the ranks before;
There is not a banner in Moslem war
Will lure the Delhis half so far;
It glances like a falling star!
Where'er that mighty arm is seen,
The bravest be, or late have been;
There the craven cries for quarter
Vainly to the vengeful Tartar;
Or the hero, silent lying,

*In the naval battle at the mouth of the Dardanelles, between the Venetians and the Turks.

Scorns to yield a groan in dying;
Mustering his last feeble blow
'Gainst the nearest levell'd foe,
Though faint beneath the mutual wound,
Grappling on the gory ground.

XXVII.

Still the old man stood erect,
And Alp's career a moment check'd.
"Yield thee, Minotti; quarter take,
For thine own, thy daughter's sake."

"Never, renegado, never!
Though the life of thy gift would last forever."

"Francesca!—Oh, my promised bride!
Must she too perish by thy pride?"

"She is safe."—"Where? where?"—"In heaven;
From whence thy traitor soul is driven—
Far from thee, and undefiled."
Grimly then Minotti smiled,
As he saw Alp staggering bow
Before his words as with a blow.

"O God! when died she?"—"Yesternight—
Nor weep I for her spirit's flight:
None of my pure race shall be
Slaves to Mahomet and thee—
Come on!"—That challenge is in vain—
Alp's already with the slain!
While Minotti's words were wreaking
More revenge in bitter speaking
Than his falchion's point had found,
Had the time allow'd to wound,
From within the neighboring porch
Of a long-defended church,
Where the last and desperate few
Would the failing fight renew,
The sharp shot dash'd Alp to the ground;
Ere an eye could view the wound
That crash'd through the brain of the infidel,
Round he spun, and down he fell;
A flash like fire within his eyes
Blazed, as he bent no more to rise,
And then eternal darkness sunk
Through all the palpitating trunk;
Nought of life left, save a quivering
Where his limbs were slightly shivering
They turn'd him on his back: his breast
And brow were stain'd with gore and dust,
And through his lips the life-blood oozed,
From its deep veins lately loosed;
But in his pulse there was no throb,
Nor on his lips one dying sob;
Sigh nor word, nor struggling breath
Heralded his way to death;
Ere his very thought could pray,
Unaneled he pass'd away,
Without a hope from mercy's aid,—
To the last a Renegade.

XXVIII.

Fearfully the yell arose
Of his followers and his foes;
These in joy, in fury those:
Then again in conflict mixing,
Clashing swords, and spears transfixing,
Interchanged the blow and thrust,
Hurling warriors in the dust.
Street by street, and foot by foot,
Still Minotti dares dispute
The latest portion of the land
Left beneath his high command;
With him, aiding heart and hand,
The remnant of his gallant band.
Still the church was tenable,
Whence issued late the fated ball
That half avenged the city's fall,
When Alp, her fierce assailant, fell;
Thither bending sternly back,
They leave before a bloody track;
And, with their faces to the foe,
Dealing wounds with every blow,
The chief, and his retreating train,
Join to those within the fane;
There they yet may breathe awhile,
Shelter'd by the massy pile.

XXIX.

Brief breathing time! the turban'd host,
With added ranks and raging boast,
Press onwards with such strength and heat,
Their numbers balk their own retreat;
For narrow the way that led to the spot
Where still the Christians yielded not;
And the foremost, if fearful, may vainly try
Through the massy column to turn and fly;
They perforce must do or die.
They die; but ere their eyes could close,
Avengers o'er their bodies rose;
Fresh and furious, fast they fill
The ranks unthinn'd, though slaughter'd still;
And faint the weary Christians wax
Before the still renew'd attacks.
And now the Othmans gain the gate;
Still resists its iron weight,
And still, all deadly aim'd and hot,
From every crevice comes the shot;
From every shatter'd window pour
The volleys of the sulphurous shower;
But the portal wavering grows, and weak,—
The iron yields, the hinges creak;
It bends—it falls—and all is o'er;
Lost Corinth may resist no more!

XXX.

Darkly, sternly, and all alone,
Minotti stood o'er the altar stone;
Madonna's face upon him shone,
Painted in heavenly hues above,
With eyes of light and looks of love;
And placed upon that holy shrine
To fix our thoughts on things divine,
When pictured there, we kneeling see
Her, and the boy-God on her knee,
Smiling sweetly on each prayer
To heaven, as if to waft it there.
Still she smiled; even now she smiles,
Though slaughter streams along her aisles.
Minotti lifted his aged eye,
And made the sign of a cross with a sigh,

Then seized a torch which blazed thereby;
And still he stood, while with steel and flame,
Inward and onward the Mussulman came.

XXXI.

The vaults beneath the mosaic stone
Contain'd the dead of ages gone;
Their names were on the graven floor,
But now illegible with gore;
The carved crests, and curious hues
Their varied marble's veins diffuse, [strown
Were smear'd, and slippery—stain'd, and
With broken swords, and helms o'erthrown;
There were dead above, and the dead below
Lay cold in many a coffin'd row;
You might see them piled in sable state,
By a pale light through a gloomy grate;
But War had enter'd their dark caves,
And stored along the vaulted graves
Her sulphurous treasures, thickly spread
In masses by the fleshless dead;
Here, throughout the siege, had been
The Christians' chiefest magazine;
To these a late-form'd train now led,
Minotti's last and stern resource,
Against the foe's o'erwhelming force.

XXXII.

The foe came on, and few remain
To strive, and those must strive in vain:
For lack of further lives, to slake
The thirst of vengeance now awake,
With barbarous blows they gash the dead,
And lop the already lifeless head,
And fell the statues from their niche,
And spoil the shrines of offerings rich,
And from each other's rude hands wrest
The silver vessels saints had bless'd.
To the high altar on they go;
Oh, but it made a glorious show!
On its table still behold
The cup of consecrated gold:
Massy and deep, a glittering prize,
Brightly it sparkles to plunderers' eyes;
That morn it held the holy wine,
Converted by Christ to His blood so divine,
Which His worshippers drank at the break of day [fray.
To shrive their souls ere they join'd in the
Still a few drops within it lay:
And round the sacred table glow
Twelve lofty lamps, in splendid row,
From the purest metal cast;
A spoil—the richest, and the last.

XXXIII.

So near they came, the nearest stretch'd
To grasp the spoil he almost reach'd,
When old Minotti's hand
Touch'd with the torch the train—
'Tis fired!
Spire, vaults, and shrine, the spoil, the slain,
The turban'd victors, the Christian band,
All that of living or dead remain,
Hurl'd on high with the shiver'd fane,
In one wild roar expired!
The shatter'd town—the walls thrown down—
The waves a moment backward bent—
The hills that shake, although unrent,
As if an earthquake pass'd—
The thousand shapeless things all driven
In cloud and flame athwart the heaven,
By that tremendous blast—
Proclaim'd the desperate conflict o'er
On that too long afflicted shore:
Up to the sky like rockets go
All that mingled there below:
Many a tall and goodly man,
Scorch'd and shrivell'd to a span,
When he fell to earth again,
Like a cinder strew'd the plain;
Down the ashes shower like rain; [sprinkles
Some fell in the gulf, which received the
With a thousand circling wrinkles:
Some fell on the shore, but far away
Scatter'd o'er the isthmus lay;
Christian or Moslem, which be they?
Let their mothers see and say!
When in cradled rest they lay,
And each nursing mother smiled
On the sweet sleep of her child,
Little deem'd she such a day
Would rend those tender limbs away.
Not the matrons that them bore
Could discern their offspring more;
That one moment left no trace
More of human form or face
Save a scatter'd scalp or bone:
And down came blazing rafters, strewn
Around, and many a falling stone,
Deeply dinted in the clay,
All blacken'd there and reeking lay,
All the living things that heard
That deadly earth-shock disappear'd:
The wild birds flew; the wild dogs fled,
And howling left the unburied dead;
The camels from their keepers broke;
The distant steer forsook the yoke—
The nearer steed plunged o'er the plain,
And burst his girth, and tore his rein;
The bullfrog's note, from out the marsh,
Deep-mouth'd arose, and doubly harsh;
The wolves yell'd on the cavern'd hill
Where echo roll'd in thunder still;
The jackal's troop, in gather'd cry,*
Bay'd from afar complainingly,
With a mix'd and mournful sound,
Like crying babe and beaten hound:
With sudden wing and ruffled breast,
The eagle left his rocky nest,
And mounted nearer to the sun,
The clouds beneath him seem'd so dun:
Their smoke assail'd his startled beak,
And made him higher soar and shriek—
Thus was Corinth lost and won!

* I believe I have taken a poetical license to transplant the jackal from Asia. In Greece I never saw nor heard these animals; but among the ruins of Ephesus I have heard them by hundreds. They haunt ruins and follow armies.

PARISINA.*

1816.

TO SCROPE BERDMORE DAVIES, ESQ.,

THE FOLLOWING POEM IS INSCRIBED,
BY ONE WHO HAS LONG ADMIRED HIS TALENTS AND VALUED HIS FRIENDSHIP.

January 22nd, 1816.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following poem is grounded on a circumstance mentioned in Gibbon's "Antiquities of the House of Brunswick." I am aware that, in modern times, the delicacy or fastidiousness of the reader may deem such subjects unfit for the purposes of poetry. The Greek dramatists, and some of the best of our old English writers, were of a different opinion: as Alfieri and Schiller have also been, more recently, upon the Continent. The following extract will explain the facts on which the story is founded. The name of Azo is substituted for Nicholas, as more metrical:—

"Under the reign of Nicholas III., Ferrara was polluted with a domestic tragedy. By the testimony of an attendant, and his own observation, the Marquis of Este discovered the incestuous loves of his wife Parisina and Hugo his bastard son, a beautiful and valiant youth. They were beheaded in the castle by the sentence of a father and husband, who published his shame, and survived their execution. He was unfortunate, if they were guilty; if they were innocent, he was still more unfortunate; nor is there any possible situation in which I can sincerely approve the last act of the justice of a parent."—GIBBON'S Miscellaneous Works, vol. iii. p. 470.

I.

It is the hour when from the boughs
The nightingale's high note is heard;
It is the hour when lovers' vows
Seem sweet in every whisper'd word;
And gentle winds, and waters near,
Make music to the lonely ear.
Each flower the dews have lightly wet,
And in the sky the stars are met,
And on the wave is deeper blue,
And on the leaf a browner hue,
And in the heaven that clear obscure,
So softly dark, and darkly pure,
Which follows the decline of day,
As twilight melts beneath the moon away.†

II.

But it is not to list to the waterfall
That Parisina leaves her hall,
And it is not to gaze on the heavenly light
That the lady walks in the shadow of night;
And if she sits in Este's bower,
'Tis not for the sake of its full-blown flower:
She listens—but not for the nightingale—
Though her ears expect as soft a tale.
There glides a step through the foliage thick,
And her cheek grows pale—and her heart beats quick.
There whispers a voice through the rustling leaves,
And her blush returns, and her bosom heaves:
A moment more, and they shall meet;—
'Tis past—her lover's at her feet.

III.

And what unto them is the world beside,
With all its change of time and tide?
Its living things—its earth and sky—
Are nothing to their mind and eye.
And heedless as the dead are they
Of aught around, above, beneath;
And if all else had pass'd away,
They only for each other breathe;
Their very sighs are full of joy
So deep, that did it not decay,
That happy madness would destroy
The hearts which feel its fiery sway:
Of guilt, of peril, do they deem
In that tumultuous tender dream?
Who that have felt that passion's power,
Or paused, or fear'd, in such an hour?
Or thought how brief such moments last?
But yet—they are already past!
Alas! we must awake before
We know such vision comes no more.

IV.

With many a lingering look they leave
The spot of guilty gladness past;
And though they hope and vow, they grieve,
As if that parting were the last.
The frequent sigh—the long embrace—
The lip that there would cling forever,
While gleams on Parisina's face
The Heaven she fears will not forgive her,
As if each calmly conscious star
Beheld her frailty from afar—
The frequent sigh, the long embrace,
Yet binds them to their trysting-place.
But it must come, and they must part
In fearful heaviness of heart,
With all the deep and shuddering chill
Which follows fast the deeds of ill.

V.

And Hugo is gone to his lonely bed,
To covet there another's bride;
But she must lay her conscious head
A husband's trusting heart beside.
But fever'd in her sleep she seems,
And red her cheek with troubled dreams,
And mutters she in her unrest
A name she dare not breathe by day,

* See Note at the end of this volume.

† The lines contained in this section were printed as set to music some time since, but belonged to the poem where they now appear: the greater part of which was composed prior to "Lara."

And clasps her lord unto the breast
Which pants for one away:
And he to that embrace awakes,
And, happy in the thought, mistakes
That dreaming sigh and warm caress
For such as he was wont to bless;
And could in very fondness weep
O'er her who loves him even in sleep.

VI.

He clasp'd her sleeping to his heart,
And listen'd to each broken word:
He hears—Why doth Prince Azo start,
As if the Archangel's voice he heard?
And well he may—a deeper doom
Could scarcely thunder o'er his tomb,
When he shall wake to sleep no more,
And stand the eternal throne before.
And well he may—his earthly peace
Upon that sound is doom'd to cease.
That sleeping whisper of a name
Bespeaks her guilt and Azo's shame.
And whose that name? that o'er his pillow,
Sounds fearful as the breaking billow
Which rolls the plank upon the shore,
And dashes on the pointed rock
The wretch who sinks to rise no more—
So came upon his soul the shock.
And whose that name?—'tis Hugo's,—his—
In sooth he had not deem'd of this!
'Tis Hugo's—he, the child of one
He loved—his own all-evil son—
The offspring of his wayward youth,
When he betray'd Bianca's truth,
The maid whose folly could confide
In him who made her not his bride.

VII.

He pluck'd his poniard in its sheath,
But sheathed it ere the point was bare—
Howe'er unworthy now to breathe,
He could not slay a thing so fair—
At least, not smiling—sleeping there—
Nay more:—he did not wake her then,
But gazed upon her with a glance
Which, had she roused her from her trance,
Had frozen her sense to sleep again—
And o'er his brow the burning lamp
Gleam'd on the dew-drops big and damp.
She spake no more—but still she slumber'd—
While in his thoughts her days are number'd.

VIII.

And with the morn he sought, and found,
In many a tale from those around,
The proof of all he fear'd to know,
Their present guilt, his future woe;
The long-conniving damsels seek
To save themselves, and would transfer
The guilt—the shame—the doom—to her:
Concealment is no more—they speak
All circumstance which may compel
Full credence to the tale they tell;
And Azo's tortured heart and ear
Have nothing more to feel or hear.

IX.

He was not one who brook'd delay:
Within the chamber of his state,
The chief of Este's ancient sway
Upon his throne of judgment sate.
His nobles and his guards are there,—
Before him is the sinful pair;
Both young—and *one* how passing fair!
With swordless belt, and fetter'd hand,
O Christ! that thus a son should stand
Before a father's face!
Yet thus must Hugo meet his sire,
And hear the sentence of his ire,
The tale of his disgrace!
And yet he seems not overcome,
Although as yet his voice be dumb.

X.

And still, and pale, and silently,
Did Parisina wait her doom:
How changed since last her speaking eye
Glanced gladness round the glittering room,
Where high-born men were proud to wait—
Where Beauty watch'd to imitate
Her gentle voice—her lovely mien—
And gather from her air and gait
The graces of its queen;
Then—had her eye in sorrow wept,
A thousand warriors forth had leapt,
A thousand swords had sheathless shone,
And made her quarrel all their own.
Now—what is she? and what are they?
Can she command, or these obey?
All silent and unheeding now,
With downcast eyes and knitting brow,
And folded arms, and freezing air,
And lips that scarce their scorn forbear,
Her knights and dames, her court—is there:
And he, the chosen one, whose lance
Had yet been couch'd before her glance,
Who—were his arm a moment free—
Had died or gain'd her liberty;
The minion of his father's bride,—
He, too, is fetter'd by her side;
Nor sees her swoll'n and full eyes swim
Less for her own despair than him:
Those lids—o'er which the violet vein
Wandering, leaves a tender stain,
Shining through the smoothest white
That e'er did softest kiss invite—
Now seem'd with hot and livid glow
To press, not shade, the orbs below;
Which glance so heavily, and fill,
As tear on tear grows gathering still.

XI.

And he for her had also wept,
But for the eyes that on him gazed:
His sorrow, if he felt it, slept;
Stern and erect his brow was raised.
Whate'er the grief his soul avow'd,
He would not shrink before the crowd;
But yet he dared not look on her:
Remembrance of the hours that were—
His guilt—his love—his present state—

His father's wrath—all good men's hate—
His earthly, his eternal fate—
And hers—oh, hers !—he dared not throw
One look upon that deathlike brow !
Else had his rising heart betray'd
Remorse for all the wreck it made.

XII.

And Azo spake: "But yesterday
I gloried in a wife and son;
That dream this morning pass'd away:
Ere day declines, I shall have none.
My life must linger on alone:
Well—let that pass—there breathes not one
Who would not do as I have done:
Those ties are broken—not by me;
Let that too pass;—the doom's prepared !
Hugo, the priest awaits on thee,
And then—thy crime's reward !
Away ! address thy prayers to Heaven,
Before its evening stars are met—
Learn if thou there canst be forgiven;
Its mercy may absolve thee yet.
But here, upon the earth beneath,
There is no spot where thou and I
Together for an hour could breathe:
Farewell ! I will not see thee die—
But thou, frail thing ! shalt view his head—
Away ! I cannot speak the rest:
Go ! woman of the wanton breast:
Not I, but thou his blood dost shed;
Go ! if that sight thou canst outlive,
And joy thee in the life I give."

XIII.

And here stern Azo hid his face—
For on his brow the swelling vein
Throbb'd as if back upon his brain
The hot blood ebb'd and flow'd again;
And therefore bow'd he for a space,
And pass'd his shaking hand along
His eye to veil it from the throng;
While Hugo raised his chainèd hands,
And for a brief delay demands
His father's ear: the silent sire
Forbids not what his words require.

"It is not that I dread the death—
For thou hast seen me by thy side
All redly through the battle ride,
And that—not once a useless brand—
Thy slaves have wrested from my hand
Hath shed more blood in cause of thine
Than e're can stain the axe of mine.
Thou gav'st, and may'st resume my breath,
A gift for which I thank thee not;
Nor are my mother's wrongs forgot,
Her slighted love and ruin'd name,
Her offspring's heritage of shame:
But she is in the grave, where he,
Her son, the rival, soon shall be.
Her broken heart—my sever'd head—
Shall witness for thee from the dead
How trusty and how tender were
Thy youthful love—paternal care.
'Tis true that I have done thee wrong;
But wrong for wrong:—this deem'd thy
The other victim of thy pride, [bride,
Thou know'st for me was destined long :
Thou saw'st, and covetedst her charms;
And with thy very crime—my birth—
Thou tauntedst me—as little worth;
A match ignoble for her arms,
Because, forsooth, I could not claim
The lawful heirship of thy name,
Nor sit on Este's lineal throne:
Yet, were a few short summers mine,
My name should more than Este's shine
With honors all my own.
I had a sword—and have a breast
That should have won as haught a crest*
As ever waved along the line
Of all these sovereign sires of thine.
Not always knightly spurs are worn
The brightest by the better born;
And mine have lanced my courser's flank
Before proud chiefs of princely rank,
When charging to the cheering cry
Of "Este and of Victory !"
I will not plead the cause of crime,
Nor sue thee to redeem from time
A few brief hours or days that must
At length roll o'er my reckless dust;—
Such maddening moments as my past,
They could not, and they did not, last.
Albeit my birth and name be base,
And thy nobility of race
Disdain'd to deck a thing like me—
Yet in my lineaments they trace
Some features of my father's face,
And in my spirit—all of thee.
From thee—this tamelessness of heart;
From thee—nay, wherefore dost thou start?—
From thee in all their vigor came
My arm of strength, my soul of flame—
Thou didst not give me life alone,
But all that made me more thine own.
See what thy guilty love hath done !
Repaid thee with too like a son !
I am no bastard in my soul,
For that, like thine, abhorr'd control:
And for my breath, that hasty boon
Thou gav'st, and will resume so soon,
I value it no more than thou,
When rose thy casque above thy brow,
And we, all side by side, have striven,
And o'er the dead our coursers driven:
The past is nothing—and at last
The future can but be the past ;
Yet would I that I then had died:
For though thou work'dst my mother's ill,
And made thy own my destined bride,
I feel thou art my father still:
And, harsh as sounds thy hard decree,
'Tis not unjust, although from thee.
Begot in sin, to die in shame,
My life begun and ends the same:
As err'd the sire, so err'd the son,
And thou must punish both in one.

* "Haught," haughty. "Away, haught man, thou art insulting me."—SHAKESPEARE.

My crime seems worse to human view,
But God must judge between us two!"

XIV.

He ceased—and stood with folded arms,
On which the circling fetters sounded;
And not an ear but felt as wounded,
Of all the chiefs that there were rank'd,
When those dull chains in meeting clank'd;
Till Parisina's fatal charms
Again attracted every eye—
Would she thus hear him doom'd to die!
She stood, I said, all pale and still,
The living cause of Hugo's ill:
Her eyes unmov'd but full and wide,
Not once had turn'd to either side—
Nor once did those sweet eyelids close,
Or shade the glance o'er which they rose,
But round their orbs of deepest blue
The circling white dilated grew—
And there with glassy gaze she stood,
As ice were in her curdled blood:
But every now and then a tear
So large and slowly gather'd slid
From the long dark fringe of that fair lid,
It was a thing to see, not hear!
And those who saw, it did surprise
Such drops could fall from human eyes.
To speak she thought—the imperfect note
Was choked within her swelling throat,
Yet seem'd in that low hollow groan
Her whole heart gushing in the tone.
It ceased—again she thought to speak,
Then burst her voice in one long shriek,
And to the earth she fell like stone,
Or statue from its base o'erthrown,
More like a thing that ne'er had life—
A monument of Azo's wife,—
Than her, that living guilty thing,
Whose every passion was a sting,
Which urged to guilt, but could not bear
That guilt's detection and despair.
But yet she lived—and all too soon
Recover'd from that death-like swoon—
But scarce to reason—every sense
Had been o'erstrung by pangs intense;
And each frail fibre of her brain
(As bowstrings, when relax'd by rain,
The erring arrow launch aside)
Sent forth her thoughts all wild and wide—
The past a blank, the future black,
With glimpses of a dreary track,
Like lightning on the desert path,
When midnight storms are mustering wrath.
She fear'd—she felt that something ill
Lay on her soul, so deep and chill—
That there was sin and shame she knew;
That some one was to die—but who?
She had forgotten:—did she breathe?
Could this be still the earth beneath,
The sky above, and men around;
Or were they fiends who now so frown'd
On one, before whose eyes each eye
Till then had smiled in sympathy?
All was confused and undefined
To her all-jarr'd and wandering mind;
A chaos of wild hopes and fears:
And now in laughter, now in tears,
But madly still in each extreme,
She strove with that convulsive dream;
For so it seem'd on her to break:
Oh! vainly must she strive to wake!

XVI.

The Convent bells are ringing,
But mournfully and slow;
In the grey square turret swinging,
With a deep sound, to and fro.
Heavily to the heart they go!
Hark? the hymn is singing—
The song for the dead below,
Or the living who shortly shall be so!
For a departing being's soul
The death-hymn peals and the hollow bells
He is near his mortal goal; [knoll:
Kneeling at the friar's knee;
Sad to hear—and piteous to see—
Kneeling on the bare cold ground, [around—
With the block before and the guards
And the headsman with his bare arm ready,
That the blow may be both swift and steady,
Feels if the axe be sharp and true—
Since he set its edge anew:
While the crowd in a speechless circle gather
To see the Son fall by the doom of the Father.

XVI.

It is a lovely hour as yet
Before the summer sun shall set,
Which rose upon that heavy day,
And mock'd it with steadiest ray;
And his evening beams are shed
Full on Hugo's fated head,
As his last confession pouring
To the monk, his doom deploring
In penitential holiness,
He bends to hear his accents bless
With absolution such as may
Wipe our mortal sins away.
That high sun on his head did glisten
As he there did bow and listen—
And the rings of chestnut hair
Curl'd half down his neck so bare;
But brighter still the beam was thrown
Upon the axe which near him shone
With a clear and ghastly glitter—
Oh! that parting hour was bitter!
Even the stern stood chill'd with awe:
Dark the crime, and just the law—
Yet they shudder'd as they saw.

XVII.

The parting prayers are said and over
Of that false son—and daring lover!
His beads and sins are all recounted,
His hours to their last minute mounted—
His mantling cloak before was stripp'd,
His bright brown locks must now be clipp'd:
'Tis done—all closely are they shorn—
The vest which till this moment worn—
The scarf which Parisina gave—
Must not adorn him to the grave.

Even that must now be thrown aside,
And o'er his eyes the kerchief tied;
But no—that last indignity
Shall ne'er approach his haughty eye.
All feelings seemingly subdued,
In deep disdain were half renew'd
When headsman's hands prepared to bind
Those eyes which would not brook such
blind,
As if they dared not look on death.
"No—yours my forfeit blood and breath—
These hands are chain'd, but let me die
At least with an unshackled eye—
Strike!"—And as the word he said,
Upon the block he bow'd his head;
These the last accents Hugo spoke:
"Strike!"—and flashing fell the stroke—
Roll'd the head—and, gushing, sunk
Back the stain'd and heaving trunk
In the dust, which each deep vein
Slaked with its ensanguined rain:
His eyes and lips a moment quiver,
Convulsed and quick—then fix forever.

He died, as erring man should die,
Without display, without parade;
Meekly had he bow'd and pray'd,
As not disdaining priestly aid,
Nor desperate of all hope on high.
And while before the prior kneeling,
His heart was wean'd from earthly feeling;
His wrathful sire—his paramour—
What were they in such an hour?
No more reproach—no more despair;
No thought but heaven—no word but prayer—
Save the few which from him broke,
When, bared to meet the headsman's stroke,
He claim'd to die with eyes unbound,
His sole adieu to those around.

XVIII.

Still as the lips that closed in death,
Each gazer's bosom held his breath:
But yet, afar, from man to man,
A cold electric shiver ran,
As down the deadly blow descended
On him whose life and love thus ended;
And, with a hushing sound compress'd,
A sigh shrunk back on every breast;
But no more thrilling noise rose there,
Beyond the blow that to the block [shock,
Pierced through with forced and sullen
Save one:—What cleaves the silent air
So madly shrill, so passing wild?
That, as a mother's o'er her child
Done to death by sudden blow,
To the sky these accents go,
Like a soul in endless woe.
Through Azo's palace-lattice driven,
That horrid voice ascends to heaven,
And every eye is turn'd thereon;
But sound and sight alike are gone!
It was a woman's shriek—and ne'er
In madlier accents rose despair;
And those who heard it, as it pass'd,
In mercy wish'd it were the last.

XIX.

Hugo is fallen; and from that hour,
No more in palace, hall, or bower,
Was Parisina heard or seen:
Her name—as if she ne'er had been—
Was banish'd from each lip and ear,
Like words of wantonness or fear:
And from Prince Azo's voice, by none
Was mention heard of wife or son.
No tomb—no memory had they;
Theirs was unconsecrated clay;
At least the knight's who died that day.
But Parisina's fate lies hid
Like dust beneath the coffin lid:
Whether in convent she abode,
And won to heaven her dreary road,
By blighted and remorseful years
Of scourge, and fast, and sleepless tears;
Or if she fell by bowl or steel,
For that dark love she dared to feel;
Or if upon the moment smote,
She died by tortures less remote,
Like him she saw upon the block,
With heart that shared the headsman's shock,
In quicken'd brokenness that came,
In pity, o'er her shatter'd frame,
None knew—and none can ever know:
But whatsoe'er its end below,
Her life began and closed in woe.

XX.

And Azo found another bride,
And goodly sons grew by his side:
But none so lovely and so brave
As him who wither'd in the grave.
Or if they were—on his cold eye
Their growth but glanced unheeded by,
Or noticed with a smother'd sigh.
But never tear his cheek descended,
And never smile his brow unbended;
And o'er that fair broad brow were wrought
The intersected lines of thought:
Those furrows which the burning share
Of Sorrow ploughs untimely there;
Scars of the lacerating mind
Which the Soul's war doth leave behind.
He was past all mirth or woe:
Nothing more remain'd below
But sleepless nights and heavy days,
A mind all dead to scorn or praise,
A heart which shunn'd itself—and yet
That would not yield—nor could forget,
Which, when it least appear'd to melt,
Intently thought—intensely felt:
The deepest ice which ever froze
Can only o'er the surface close—
The living stream lies quick below,
And flows—and cannot cease to flow.
Still was his seal'd-up bosom haunted
By thoughts which Nature had implanted:
Too deeply rooted thence to vanish,
Howe'er our stifled tears we banish,
When, struggling as they rise to start,
We check those waters of the heart,
They are not dried—those tears unshed,
But flow back to the fountain-head,

And resting in their spring more pure,
Forever in its depth endure,
Unseen, unwept, but uncongeal'd,
And cherish'd most where least reveal'd.
With inward starts of feeling left,
To throb o'er those of life bereft;
Without the power to fill again
The desert gap which made his pain;
Without the hope to meet them where
United souls shall gladness share;
With all the consciousness that he
Had only pass'd a just decree;
That they had wrought their doom of ill;
Yet Azo's age was wretched still.
The tainted branches of the tree,
If lopp'd with care, a strength may give,
By which the rest shall bloom and live
All greenly fresh and wildly free:
But if the lightning in its wrath
The waving boughs with fury scathe,
The massy trunk the ruin feels,
And never more a leaf reveals.

THE PRISONER OF CHILLON.

1816.

SONNET ON CHILLON.

ETERNAL Spirit of the chainless Mind!
Brightest in dungeons, Liberty! thou art,
For there thy habitation is the heart—
The heart which love of thee alone can bind;
And when thy sons to fetters are consign'd—
To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless gloom,
Their country conquers with their martyrdom,
And Freedom's fame finds wings on every wind.
Chillon! thy prison is a holy place,
And thy sad floor an altar—for 'twas trod,
Until his very steps have left a trace
Worn, as if thy cold pavement were a sod,
By Bonnivard! May none those marks efface!
For they appeal from tyranny to God.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEN this poem was composed, I was not sufficiently aware of the history of Bonnivard, or I should have endeavored to dignify the subject by an attempt to celebrate his courage and his virtues. With some account of his life I have been furnished, by the kindness of a citizen of that republic, which is still proud of the memory of a man worthy of the best age of ancient freedom: -

"Francois de Bonnivard, fils de Louis de Bonnivard, originaire de Seyssel et Seigneur de Lunes, naquit en 1496. Il fit ses etudes a Turin: en 1510 Jean Aime de Bonnivard, son oncle, lui resigna le Prieure de St. Victor, qui aboutissait aux murs de Geneve, et qui formait un benefice considerable.

"Ce grand homme—(Bonnivard merite ce titre par la force de son ame, la droiture de son coeur, la noblesse de ses intentions, la sagesse de ses conseils, le courage de ses demarches, l'etendue de ses connaissances, et la vivacite de son esprit),—ce grand homme, qui excitera l'admiration de tous ceux qu'une vertu heroique peut encore emouvoir, inspirera encore la plus vive reconnaissance dans les coeurs des Genevois qui aiment Geneve. Bonnivard en fut toujours un des plus fermes appuis: pour assurer la liberte de notre Republique, il ne craignit pas de perdre souvent la sienne; il oublia son repos; il meprisa ses richesses; il ne negligea rien pour affermir le bonheur d'une patre qu'il honora de son choix: des ce moment il la cherit comme le plus zele de ses citoyens, il la servit avec l'intrepidite d'un heros, et il ecrivit son Histoire avec la naivete d'un philosophe et le chaleur d'un patriote.

"Il dit dans le commencement de son Histoire de Geneve, que, des qu'il eut commence de lire l'histoire des nations, il se sentit entraine par son gout pour les Republiques, dont il epousa toujours les interets': c'est ce gout pour la liberte qui lui fit sans doute adopter Geneve pour sa patrie.

"Bonnivard, encore jeune, s'annonca hautement comme le defenseur de Geneve contre le Duc de Savoye et l'Eveque.

"En 1519, Bonnivard devient le martyr de sa patrie. Le Duc de Savoye etant entre dans Geneve avec cinq cent hommes, Bonnivard craint le ressentiment du Duc; il voulut se refirer a Fribourg pour en eviter les suites; mais il fut trahi par deux hommes qui l'accompagnaient, et conduit par ordre du Prince a Grolee, ou il resta prisonnier pendant deux ans. Bonnivard etait malheureux dans ses voyages: comme ses malheurs n'avaient point rendu il devait etre expose a leurs coups. Il fut rencontre en 1530 sur le Jura par des voleurs, qui le depouillerent et qui le mirent encore entre les mains du Duc de Savoye: ce Prince le fit enfirmer dans le Chateau de Chillon, ou il resta sans etre interroge jusques en 1536; il fut alors delivre par les Bernois, qui s'emparerent du Pays de Vaud.

"Bonnivard, en sortant de sa captivite, eut le plaisir de trouver Geneve libre et reformee: la Republique s'empressa de lui temoigner sa reconnaissance, et de la dedommager des maux qu'il avoit soufferts; elle le regut Bourgeois de la ville au mois de Juin, 1536; elle lui donna la maison habitee autrefois par le Vicaire General, et elle lui assigna une pension de deux cent ecus d'or tant qu'il sejournerait a Geneve. Il fut admis dans le Conseil de Deux-Cent en 1537.

"Bonnivard n'a pas fini d'etre utile: apres avoir travaille a rendre Geneve libre, ill reussit a la rendre tolerante. Bonnivard engagea le Conseil a accorder aux ecclesiastiques et aux paysans un tems suffisant pour examiner les propositions qu on leur faisait; il reussit par sa douceur: on preche toujours le Christianisme avec succes quand on le preche avec charite.

"Bonnivard fut savant: ses manuscrits, qui sont dans la bibliotheque publique, prouvent qu'il avait bien lu les auteurs classiques Latins, et qu'il avait approfondi la theologie et l'histoire. Ce grand homme aimait les sciences, et il croyait qu'elles pouvaient faire la gloire de Geneve; aussi il ne negligea rien pour les fixer dans cette ville naissante: en 1551 il donna sa bibliotheque au public; elle fut le commencement de notre bibliotheque publique; et ces livres sont en partie les rares et belles editions du quinzieme siecle qu'on voit dans notre collection. Enfin, pendant la meme annee, ce bon patriote institua la Republique son heritiere, a condition qu'elle employerait ses biens a entretenir le college dont on projettait la fondation.

"Il parait que Bonnivard mourut en 1570; mais on ne peut l'assurer, parcequ'il y a une lacune dans le Necrologe depuis le mois de Juillet, 1570, jusques en 1571.

I.

My hair is grey, but not with years;
Nor grew it white
In a single night,*
As men's have grown from sudden fears:
My limbs are bow'd, though not with toil,
But rusted with a vile repose,
For they have been a dungeon's spoil,
And mine has been the fate of those
To whom the goodly earth and air
Are bann'd, and barr'd—forbidden fare;
But this was for my father's faith
I suffer'd chains and courted death:
That father perish'd at the stake
For tenets he would not forsake;
And for the same his lineal race
In darkness found a dwelling-place.
We were seven—who now are one,
Six in youth, and one in age,
Finish'd as they had begun,
Proud of Persecution's rage;
One in fire, and two in field,
Their belief with blood have seal'd;
Dying as their father died,
For the God their foes denied;—
Three were in a dungeon cast,
Of whom this wreck is left the last.

II.

There are seven pillars of Gothic mould,
In Chillon's dungeons deep and old;
There are seven columns, massy and grey,
Dim with a dull imprison'd ray,
A sunbeam which hath lost its way,
And through the crevice and the cleft
Of the thick wall is fallen and left:
Creeping o'er the floor so damp,
Like a marsh's meteor lamp:
And in each pillar there is a ring,
And in each ring there is a chain;
That iron is a cankering thing,
For in these limbs its teeth remain,
With marks that will not wear away,
Till I have done with this new day,
Which now is painful to these eyes,
Which have not seen the sun so rise
For years—I cannot count them o'er;
I lost their long and heavy score
When my last brother droop'd and died,
And I lay living by his side.

III.

They chain'd us each to a column stone,
And we were three—yet each alone;
We could not move a single pace,
We could not see each other's face,
But with that pale and livid light
That made us strangers in our sight:
And thus together—yet apart,
Fetter'd in hand, but join'd in heart,
'Twas still some solace in the dearth
Of the pure elements of earth,
To hearken to each other's speech,
And each turn comforter to each
With some new hope, or legend old,
Or song heroically bold;
But even these at length grew cold.
Our voices took a dreary tone,
An echo of the dungeon-stone,
A grating sound—not full and free
As they of yore were wont to be:
It might be fancy—but to me
They never sounded like our own.

IV.

I was the eldest of the three;
And to uphold and cheer the rest
I ought to do—and did—my best,
And each did well in his degree.
The youngest, whom my father loved,
Because our mother's brow was given
To him—with eyes as blue as heaven,
For him my soul was sorely moved.
And truly might it be distress'd
To see such bird in such a nest;
For he was beautiful as day—
(When day was beautiful to me
As to young eagles, being free)—
A polar day, which will not see
A sunset till its summer's gone,
Its sleepless summer of long light,
The snow-clad offspring of the sun:
And thus he was as pure and bright,
And in his natural spirit gay,
With tears for naught but others' ills,
And then they flow'd like mountain rills,
Unless he could assuage the woe
Which he abhorr'd to view below.

V.

The other was as pure of mind,
But form'd to combat with his kind;
Strong in his frame, and of a mood
Which 'gainst the world in war had stood,
And perish'd in the foremost rank
With joy—but not in chains to pine:
His spirit wither'd with their clank,
I saw it silently decline—
And so perchance in sooth did mine;
But yet I forced it on to cheer
Those relics of a home so dear.
He was a hunter of the hills,
Had follow'd there the deer and wolf;
To him this dungeon was a gulf,
And fetter'd feet the worst of ills.

VI.

Lake Leman lies by Chillon's walls:
A thousand feet in depth below
Its massy waters meet and flow;
Thus much the fathom line was sent
From Chillon's snow-white battlement,*

*Ludovico Sforza, and others.—The same is asserted of Marie Antoinette's, the wife of Louis XVI., though not in quite so short a period. Grief is said to have the same effect; to such, and not to fear, this change in hers was to be attributed.

*The Chateau de Chillon is situated between Clarens and Villeneuve, which last is at one extremity of the Lake of Geneva. On its left are the entrances of the Rhone, and opposite are the heights of Meillerie and the range of Alps above Bouveret and St. Gingo.
Near it, on a hill behind, is a torrent; below it, wash-

Which round about the wave enthralls:
A double dungeon wall and wave
Have made—and like a living grave.
Below the surface of the lake
The dark vault lies wherein we lay,
We heard it ripple night and day;
Sounding o'er heads it knock'd;
And I have felt the winter's spray
Wash through the bars when winds were high
And wanton in the happy sky;
And then the very rock hath rock'd,
And I have felt it shake, unshock'd,
Because I could have smiled to see
The death that would have set me free.

VII.

I said my nearer brother pined,
I said his mighty heart declined,
He loathed and put away his food:
It was not that 'twas coarse and rude,
For we were used to hunters' fare,
And for the like had little care:
The milk drawn from the mountain goat
Was changed for water from the moat;
Our bread was such as captives' tears
Have moisten'd many a thousand years,
Since man first pent his fellow-men
Like brutes within an iron den;
But what were these to us or him?
These wasted not his heart or limb;
My brother's soul was of that mould
Which in a palace had grown cold,
Had his free-breathing been denied
The range of the steep mountain's side.
But why delay the truth?—he died.
I saw, and could not hold his head,
Nor reach his dying hand—nor dead—
Though hard I strove, but strove in vain,
To rend and gnash my bonds in twain.
He died—and they unlock'd his chain,
And scoop'd for him a shallow grave
Even from the cold earth of our cave.
I begg'd them, as a boon, to lay
His corse in dust whereon the day
Might shine—it was a foolish thought,
But then within my brain it wrought,
That even in death his free-born breast
In such a dungeon could not rest.
I might have spared my idle prayer—
They coldly laugh'd—and laid him there:
The flat and turfless earth above
The being we so much did love;
His empty chain above it leant,
Such murder's fitting monument!

VIII.

But he, the favorite and the flower,
Most cherish'd since his natal hour,
His mother's image in fair face,
The infant love of all his race,
His martyr'd father's dearest thought,
My latest care, for whom I sought
To hoard my life, that his might be
Less wretched now, and one day free;
He, too, who yet had held untired
A spirit natural or inspired—
He, too, was struck, and day by day
Was wither'd on the stalk away.
O God! it is a fearful thing
To see the human soul take wing
In any shape, in any mood:—
I've seen it rushing forth in blood,
I've seen it on the breaking ocean
Strive with a swoll'n convulsive motion,
I've seen the sick and ghastly bed
Of Sin delirious with its dread:
But these were horrors—this was woe
Unmix'd with such,—but sure and slow.
He faded, and so calm and meek,
So softly worn, so sweetly weak,
So tearless, yet so tender,—kind,
And grieved for those he left behind;
With all the while a cheek whose bloom
Was as a mockery of the tomb,
Whose tints as gently sunk away
As a departing rainbow's ray—
An eye of most transparent light,
That almost made the dungeon bright,
And not a word of murmur—not
A groan o'er his untimely lot!
A little talk of better days,
A little hope my own to raise,
For I was sunk in silence—lost
In this last loss, of all the most:
And then the sighs he would suppress
Of fainting nature's feebleness,
More slowly drawn, grew less and less:
I listen'd, but I could not hear—
I call'd, for I was wild with fear;
I knew 'twas hopeless, but my dread
Would not be thus admonished;
I call'd, and thought I heard a sound—
I burst my chain with one strong bound,
And rush'd to him;—I found him not;
I only stirr'd in this black spot,
I only lived—*I* only drew
The accursed breath of dungeon-dew;
The last,—the sole,—the dearest link
Between me and the eternal brink
Which bound me to my failing race,
Was broken in this fatal place.
One on the earth, and one beneath—
My brothers—both had ceased to breathe;
I took that hand which lay so still;
Alas, my own was full as chill;
I had not strength to stir or strive,
But felt that I was still alive—
A frantic feeling, when we know

---

ing its walls, the lake has been fathomed to the depth of 800 feet (French measure); within it are a range of dungeons in which the early reformers, and subsequently prisoners of state, were confined. Across one of the vaults is a beam black with age, on which we were informed that the condemned were formerly executed. In the cells are seven pillars, or rather eight, one being half merged in the wall; in some of these are rings for the fetters and the fettered. In the pavement, the steps of Bonnivard have left their traces. He was confined here several years.

It is by this castle that Rousseau has fixed the catastrophe of his Heloise, in the rescue of one of her children by Julie from the water; the shock of which, and the illness produced by the immersion, is the cause of her death.

The chateau is large, and seen along the lake for a great distance. The walls are white.

That what we love shall ne'er be so.
I know not why
I could not die;
I had no earthly hope—but faith,
And that forbade a selfish death.

IX.

What next befell me then and there
I know not well—I never knew:—
First came the loss of light, and air,
And then of darkness too:
I had no thought, no feeling—none—
Among the stones I stood a stone,
And was, scarce conscious what I wist,
As shrubless crags within the mist;
For all was blank, and bleak, and grey,
It was not night—it was not day;
It was not even the dungeon-light,
So hateful to my heavy sight,
But vacancy absorbing space,
And fixedness, without a place:
There were no stars,—no earth,—no time,
No check,—no change,—no good,—no crime,—
But silence, and a stirless breath
Which neither was of life nor death;
A sea of stagnant idleness,
Blind, boundless, mute, and motionless!

X.

A light broke in upon my brain—
It was the carol of a bird;
It ceased, and then it came again,
The sweetest song ear ever heard;
And mine was thankful, till my eyes
Ran over with the glad surprise,
And they that moment could not see
I was the mate of misery;
But then by dull degrees came back
My senses to their wonted track,
I saw the dungeon walls and floor
Close slowly round me as before,
I saw the glimmer of the sun
Creeping as it before had done,
But through the crevice where it came
That bird was perch'd, as fond and tame,
And tamer than upon the tree;
A lovely bird, with azure wings,
And song that said a thousand things,
And seem'd to say them all for me!
I never saw its like before,
I ne'er shall see its likeness more:
It seem'd, like me, to want a mate,
But was not half so desolate,
And it was come to love me when
None lived to love me so again,
And cheering from my dungeon's brink,
Had brought me back to feel and think.
I know not if it late were free,
Or broke its cage to perch on mine,
But knowing well captivity,
Sweet bird, I could not wish for thine!
Or if it were, in wingèd guise,
A visitant from Paradise;
For—Heaven forgive that thought! the while
Which made me both to weep and smile;
I sometimes deem'd that it might be
My brother's soul come down to me;
But then at last away it flew,
And then 'twas mortal—well I knew,
For he would never thus have flown,
And left me twice so doubly lone—
Lone,—as the corse within its shroud;
Lone,—as a solitary cloud,
A single cloud on a sunny day,
While all the rest of heaven is clear,
A frown upon the atmosphere,
That hath no business to appear
When skies are blue and earth is gay.

XI.

A kind of change came in my fate,
My keepers grew compassionate:
I know not what had made them so,
They were inured to sights of woe;
But so it was—my broken chain
With links unfasten'd did remain,
And it was liberty to stride
Along my cell from side to side,
And up and down, and then athwart,
And tread it over every part;
And round the pillars one by one,
Returning where my walk begun,
Avoiding only, as I trod,
My brothers' graves without a sod;
For if I thought with heedless tread
My step profaned their lowly bed,
My breath came gaspingly and thick,
And my crush'd heart fell blind and sick.

XII.

I made a footing in the wall,
It was not therefrom to escape,
For I had buried one and all
Who loved me in a human shape;
And the whole earth would henceforth be
A wider prison unto me:
No child—no sire—no kin had I,
No partner in my misery;
I thought of this, and I was glad,
For thought of them had made me mad;
But I was curious to ascend
To my barr'd windows, and to bend
Once more, upon the mountains high,
The quiet of a loving eye.

XIII.

I saw them—and they were the same,
They were not changed like me in frame;
I saw their thousand years of snow
On high—their wide long lake below,
And the blue Rhone in fullest flow;
I heard the torrents leap and gush
O'er channell'd rock and broken bush;
I saw the white-wall'd distant town,
And whiter sails go skimming down;
And then there was a little isle,*

*Between the entrances of the Rhone and Villeneuve, not far from Chillon, is a very small island; the only one I could perceive, in my voyage round and over the lake, within its circumference. It contains a few trees (I think not above three), and from its singleness and diminutive size has a peculiar effect upon the view.

Which in my very face did smile,
The only one in view:
A small green isle, it seem'd no more,
Scarce broader than my dungeon floor;
But in there were three tall trees,
And o'er it blew the mountain breeze,
And by it there were waters flowing,
And on it there were young flowers growing,
Of gentle breath and hue.
The fish swam by the castle wall,
And they seem'd joyous, each and all;
The eagle rode the rising blast,
Methought he never flew so fast
As then to me he seem'd to fly,
And then new tears came in my eye,
And I felt troubled—and would fain
I had not left my recent chain;
And when I did descend again,
The darkness of my dim abode
Fell on me as a heavy load;
It was as is a new-dug grave,
Closing o'er one we sought to save.
And yet my glance, too much opprest,
Had almost need of such a rest.

XIV.

It might be months, or years, or days,
I kept no count—I took no note,
I had no hope my eyes to raise,
And clear them of their dreary mote;
At last men came to set me free,
I ask'd not why, and reck'd not where,
It was at length the same to me,
Fetter'd or fetterless to be,
I learn'd to love despair.
And thus, when they appear'd at last,
And all my bonds aside were cast,
These heavy walls to me had grown
A hermitage—and all my own!
And half I felt as they were come
To tear me from a second home:
With spiders I had friendship made,
And watch'd them in their sullen trade,
Had seen the mice by moonlight play,
And why should I feel less than they?
We were all inmates of one place,
And I, the monarch of each race,
Had power to kill—yet, strange to tell!
In quiet we had learn'd to dwell—
My very chains and I grew friends,
So much a long communion tends
To make us what we are:—even I
Regain'd my freedom with a sigh.

BEPPO:

A VENETIAN STORY.

1817.

ROSALIND. Farewell, Monsieur Traveller: Look you lisp, and wear strange suits: disable all the benefits of your own country; be out of love with your Nativity, and almost chide God for making you that countenance you are; or I will scarce think you have swam in a Gondola.—"As You Like It," Act IV., Scene I.

ANNOTATION OF THE COMMENTATORS.

That is, been at Venice, which was much visited by the young English gentlemen of those times, and was then what Paris is now—the seat of all dissoluteness.—S. A.

I.

'Tis known, at least it should be, that throughout
All countries of the Catholic persuasion,
Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about,
The people take their fill of recreation,
And buy repentance, ere they grow devout,
However high their rank, or low their station,
With fiddling, feasting, dancing, drinking, [masking,
And other things which may be had for asking.

II.

The moment night with dusky mantle covers
The skies (and the more duskily the better),
The time less liked by husbands than by lovers
Begins, and prudery flings aside her fetter;
And gaiety on restless tiptoe hovers,
Giggling with all the gallants who beset her:
And there are songs and quavers, roaring, humming,
Guitars, and every other sort of strumming.

III.

And there are dresses splendid, but fantastical,
Masks of all times and nations, Turks and Jews, [nastical,
And harlequins and clowns, with feats gymGreeks, Romans, Yankee-doodles, and Hindoos;
All kinds of dress, except the ecclesiastical,
All people, as their fancies hit, may choose,
But no one in these parts may quiz the clergy—
Therefore take heed, ye Freethinkers! I charge ye.

IV.

You'd better walk about begirt with briars,
Instead of coat and small clothes, than put on
A single stitch reflecting upon friars,
Although you swore it only was in fun;
They'd haul you o'er the coals, and stir the fires
Of Phlegethon with every mother's son,
Nor say one mass, to cool the cauldron's bubble [double.
That boil'd your bones, unless you paid them

V.

But saving this, you may put on whate'er
You like by way of doublet, cape or cloak,
Such as in Monmouth Street, or in Rag Fair,
Would rig you out in seriousness or joke;
And even in Italy such places are,
With prettier names in softer accents spoke;
For, bating Covent Garden, I can hit on
No place that's called "Piazza" in Great Britain.

VI.

This feast is named the Carnival, which being
Interpreted, implies, "farewell to flesh":
So call'd, because the name and thing agreeing, [fresh.
Through Lent they live on fish both salt and
But why they usher Lent with so much glee in,
Is more than I can tell, although I guess
'Tis as we take a glass with friends at parting,
In the stage-coach or packet, just at starting.

VII.

And thus they bid farewell to carnal dishes,
And solid meats, and highly-spiced ragouts,
To live for forty days on ill-dressed fishes,
Because they have no sauces for their stews;
A thing which causes many "poohs" and "pishes," [Muse),
And several oaths (which would not suit the
From travellers accustom'd from a boy
To eat their salmon, at the least, with soy;

VIII.

And therefore humbly I would recommend
"The curious in fish-sauce," before they cross
The sea, to bid their cook, or wife, or friend,
Walk or ride to the Strand, and buy in gross
(Or if set out beforehand, these may send
By any means least liable to loss)
Ketchup, Soy, Chili-vinegar, and Harvey, [ye:
Or, by the Lord! a Lent will well nigh starve

IX.

That is to say, if your religion's Roman,
And you at Rome would do as Romans do,
According to the proverb,—although no man,
If foreign, is obliged to fast: and you,
If Protestant, or sickly, or a woman,
Would rather dine in sin on a ragout—
Dine and be d—d! I don't mean to be coarse,
But that's the penalty, to say no worse.

X.

Of all the places where the Carnival
Was most facetious in the days of yore,
For dance and song, and serenade, and ball,
And masque, and mime, and mystery, and
Than I have time to tell now, or at all, [more
Venice the bell from every city bore,—
And at the moment when I fix my story,
That sea-born city was in all her glory.

XI.

They've pretty faces yet, those same Venetians, [pressions still;
Black eyes, arch'd brows, and sweet ex-
Such as of old were copied from the Grecians,
In ancient arts by moderns mimick'd ill;
And like so many Venuses of Titian's
(The best's at Florence—see it, if you will),
They look when leaning over the balcony,
Or stepp'd from out a picture by Giorgione,

XII.

Whose tints are truth and beauty at their best;
And when you to Manfrini's palace go,
That picture (howsoever fine the rest),
Is loveliest to my mind of all the show;
It may perhaps be also to *your* zest,
And that's the cause I rhyme upon it so:
'Tis but a portrait of his son, and wife,
And self; but *such* a woman! love in life!

XIII.

Love in full life and length, not love ideal,
No, nor ideal beauty, that fine name,
But something better still, so very real,
That the sweet model must have been the same: [steal,
A thing that you would purchase, beg, or
Were't not impossible, besides a shame:
The face recalls some face, as 'twere with pain,
You once have seen, but ne'er will see again;

XIV.

One of those forms which flit by us, when we
Are young, and fix our eyes on every face;
And oh! the loveliness at times we see
In momentary gliding, the soft grace,
The youth, the bloom, the beauty which agree,
In many a nameless being we retrace,
Whose course and home we knew not, nor shall know,
Like the lost Pleiad seen no more below.*

XV.

I said that like a picture by Giorgione
Venetian women were, and so they *are*,
Particularly seen from a balcony
(For beauty's sometimes best set off afar),
And there, just like a heroine of Goldoni,
They peep from out the blind, or o'er the bar;
And truth to say, they're mostly very pretty,
And rather like to show it, more's the pity!

XVI.

For glances beget ogles, ogles sighs,
Sighs wishes, wishes words, and words a letter, [ries,
Which flies on wings of light-heel'd Mercu-
Who do such things because they know no better;
And then, God knows what mischief may arise,
When love links two young people in one fetter,
Vile assignations, and adulterous beds, [heads.
Elopements, broken vows, and hearts, and

XVII.

Shakspeare described the sex in Desdemona
As very fair, but yet suspect in fame,

* Quæ septem dici sex tamen esse solent.—Ovid.

And to this day from Venice to Verona
Such matters may be probably the same, [a
Except that since those times was never known
Husband whom mere suspicion could inflame
To suffocate a wife no more than twenty,
Because she had a "cavalier servente."

XVIII.

Their jealousy (if they are ever jealous)
Is of a fair complexion altogether,
Not like that sooty devil of Othello's,
Which smothers women in a bed of feather,
But worthier of these much more jolly fellows,
When weary of the matrimonial tether
His head for such a wife no mortal bothers,
But takes at once another, or another's.

XIX.

Didst ever see a Gondola? For fear
You should not, I'll describe it you exactly:
'Tis a long cover'd boat that's common here,
Carved at the prow, built lightly, but compactly, [lier,"
Row'd by two rowers, each call'd "Gondo-
It glides along the water looking blackly,
Just like a coffin clapt in a canoe,
Where none can make out what you say or do.

XX.

And up and down the long canals they go,
And under the Rialto shoot along,
By night and day, all paces, swift or slow—
And round the theatres, a sable throng,
They wait in their dusk livery of woe,—
But not to them do woeful things belong,
For sometimes they contain a deal of fun,
Like mourning coaches when the funeral's done.

XXI.

But to my story.—'Twas some years ago,
It may be thirty, forty, more or less,
The Carnival was at its height, and so
Were all kinds of buffoonery and dress;
A certain lady went to see the show,
Her real name I know not, nor can guess,
And so we'll call her Laura, if you please,
Because it slips into my verse with ease.

XXII.

She was not old, nor young, nor at the years
Which certain people call a "*certain age*,"
Which yet the most uncertain age appears,
Because I never heard, nor could engage
A person yet by prayers, or bribes, or tears,
To name, define by speech, or write on page,
The period meant precisely by that word,—
Which surely is exceedingly absurd.

XXIII.

Laura was blooming still, had made the best
Of time, and time return'd the compliment,
And treated her genteelly, so that, dress'd,
She look'd extremely well where'er she went:
A pretty woman is a welcome guest,
And Laura's brow a frown had rarely bent;
Indeed, she shone all smiles, and seem'd to flatter [her.
Mankind with her black eyes for looking at

XXIV.

She was a married woman: 'tis convenient,
Because in Christian countries 'tis a rule
To view their little slips with eyes more lenient;
Whereas, if single ladies play the fool
(Unless within the period intervenient [cool),
A well-timed wedding makes the scandal
I don't know how they ever can get over it,
Except they manage never to discover it.

XXV.

Her husband sail'd upon the Adriatic,
And made some voyages, too, in other seas,
And when he lay in quarantine for pratique
(A forty days' precaution 'gainst disease),
His wife would mount at times her highest attic, [case:
For thence she could discern the ship with
He was a merchant, trading to Aleppo,
His name Giuseppe, call'd more briefly Beppo.

XXVI.

He was a man as dusky as a Spaniard,
Sunburnt with travel, yet a portly figure;
Though color'd, as it were, within a tanyard,
He was a person both of sense and vigor—
A better seaman never yet did man yard;
And she, although her manners show'd no rigor,
Was deem'd a woman of the strictest principle,
So much as to be thought almost invincible.

XXVII.

But several years elapsed since they had met;
Some people thought the ship was lost, and some
That he had somehow blundered into debt,
And did not like the thought of steering home;
And there were several offer'd any bet,
Or that he would, or that he would not come,
For most men (till by losing render'd sager)
Will back their own opinions with a wager.

XXVIII.

'Tis said that their last parting was pathetic,
As partings often are, or ought to be,
And their presentiment was quite prophetic,
That they should never more each other see,
(A sort of morbid feeling half poetic,
Which I have known occur in two or three),
When kneeling on the shore upon her sad knee,
He left this Adriatic Ariadne.

XXIX.

And Laura waited long, and wept a little,
And thought of wearing weeds, as well she might;
She almost lost all appetite for victual,
And could not sleep with ease alone at night;

She deem'd the window-frames and shutters brittle
Against a daring housebreaker or sprite,
And so she thought it prudent to connect her
With a vice-husband, *chiefly* to *protect her.*

XXX.

She chose, (and what is there they will not choose,
If only you will but oppose their choice?)
Till Beppo should return from his long cruise,
And bid once more her faithful heart rejoice,
A man some women like, and yet abuse—
A coxcomb was he by the public voice;
A Count of wealth, they said, as well as quality,
And in his pleasures of great liberality.

XXXI.

And then he was a Count, and then he knew
Music and dancing, fiddling, French, and Tuscan;
The last not easy, be it known to you,
For few Italians speak the right Etruscan.
He was a critic upon operas, too, [buskin;
And knew all niceties of the sock and
And no Venetian audience could endure a
Song, scene, or air, when he cried "seccatura!"

XXXII.

His "bravo" was decisive, for that sound
Hush'd "Academie" sigh'd in silent awe;
The fiddlers trembled as he look'd around,
For fear of some false note's detected flaw.
The "prima donna's" tuneful heart would bound,
Dreading the deep damnation of his "bah!"
Soprano, basso, even the contra-alto,
Wish'd him five fathom under the Rialto.

XXXIII.

He patronized the Improvisatori, [stanzas,
Nay, could himself extemporize some
Wrote rhymes, sang songs, could also tell a story, [as
Sold pictures, and was skillful in the dance
Italians can be, though in this their glory
Must surely yield the palm to that which France has:
In short, he was a perfect cavaliero,
And to his very valet seem'd a hero.

XXXIV.

Then he was faithful, too, as well as amorous;
So that no sort of female could complain,
Although they're now and then a little clamorous,
He never put the pretty souls in pain;
His heart was one of those which most enamour us,
Wax to receive, and marble to retain:
He was a lover of the good old school,
Who still become more constant as they cool.

XXXV.

No wonder such accomplishments should turn
A female head, however sage and steady—
With scarce a hope that Beppo could return,
In law he was almost as good as dead, he
Nor sent nor wrote, nor show'd the least concern,
And she had waited several years already;
And really if a man won't let us know
That he's alive, he's *dead*, or should be so.

XXXVI.

Besides, within the Alps, to every woman
(Although, God knows, it is a grievous sin)
'Tis, I may say, permitted to have *two* men;
I can't tell who first brought the custom in,
But "Cavalier Serventes" are quite common,
And no one notices, nor cares a pin;
And we may call this (not to say the worst)
A *second* marriage, which corrupts the *first.*

XXXVII.

The word was formerly a "Cicisbeo,"
But *that* is now grown vulgar and indecent;
The Spaniards call the person a "*Cortejo*," *
For the same mode subsists in Spain, though recent;
In short, it reaches from the Po to Teio,
And may perhaps at last be o'er the sea sent;
But Heaven preserve Old England from such courses!
Or what becomes of damage and divorces?

XXXVIII.

However, I still think, with all due deference
To the fair *single* part of the creation,
That married ladies should preserve the preference
In *tête-à-tête* or general conversation—
And this I say without peculiar reference
To England, France, or any other nation—
Because they know the world, and are at ease,
And being natural, naturally please.

XXXIX.

'Tis true your budding Miss is very charming,
But shy and awkward at first coming out,
So much alarm'd, that she is quite alarming.
All Giggle, Blush; half pertness and half pout; [in
And glancing at *Mamma*, for fear there's harm
What you, she, it, or they may be about,
The nursery still lisps out in all they utter—
Besides, they always smell of bread and butter.

XL.

But "Cavalier Servente" is the phrase
Used in politest circles to express
The supernumerary slave, who stays
Close to the lady as a part of dress,
Her word the only law which he obeys.
His is no sinecure, as you may guess;
Coach, servants, gondola, he goes to call,
And carries fan and tippet, gloves and shawl.

XLI.

With all its sinful doings, I must say

* Cortejo is pronounced Corteho, with an aspirate, according to the Arabesque guttural. It means what there is yet no precise name for in England, though the practice is as common as in any tramontane country whatever.

That Italy's a pleasant place to me,
Who love to see the Sun shine every day, [tree
And vines (not nail'd to walls) from tree to
Festoon'd, much like the back scene of a play,
Or melodrame, which people flock to see,
When the first act is ended by a dance
In vineyards copied from the south of France.

XLII.

I like on autumn evenings to ride out [sure
Without being forced to bid my groom be
My cloak is round his middle strapped about
Because the skies are not the most secure;
I know, too, that if stopp'd upon my route,
Where the green alleys windingly allure,
Reeling with grapes red waggons choke the way,—
In England 'twould be dung, dust, or a dray.

XLIII.

I also like to dine on becaficas,
To see the sun set, sure he'll rise to-morrow,
Not through a misty morning twinkling weak as [row,
A drunken man's dead eye in maudlin sor-
But with all Heaven t' himself; that day will break as [borrow
Beauteous as cloudless, nor be forced to
That sort of farthing candlelight which glimmers [mers.
Where reeking London's smoky caldron sim-

XLIV.

I love the language, that soft bastard Latin,
Which melts like kisses from a female mouth,
And sounds as if it should be writ on satin,
With syllables which breathe of the sweet South,
And gentle liquids gliding all so pat in,
That not a single accent seems uncouth,
Like our harsh northern whistling, grunting guttural, [sputter all.
Which we're obliged to hiss, and spit, and

XLV.

I like the women too (forgive my folly),
From the rich peasant-cheek of ruddy bronze, [volley
And large black eyes that flash on you a
Of rays that say a thousand things at once,
To the high dama's brow, more melancholy,
But clear, and with a wild and liquid glance,
Heart on her lips, and soul within her eyes,
Soft as her clime, and sunny as her skies.

XLVI.

Eve of the land which still is Paradise!
Italian beauty! didst thou not inspire
Raphael, who died in thy embrace, and vies
With all we know of Heaven, or can desire,
In what he has bequeath'd us?—in what guise,
Though flashing from the fervor of the lyre,
Would *words* describe thy past and present glow,
While yet Canova can create below? *

XLVII.

"England! with all thy faults I love thee still,"
I said at Calais, and have not forgot it;
I like to speak and lucubrate my fill;
I like the government (but that is not it);
I like the freedom of the press and quill;
I like the Habeas Corpus (when we've got it);
I like a parliamentary debate,
Particularly when 'tis not too late;

XLVIII.

I like the taxes, when they're not too many;
I like a seacoal fire, when not too dear;
I like a beefsteak, too, as well as any;
Have no objection to a pot of beer;
I like the weather, when it is not rainy,
That is, I like two months of every year;
And so God save the Regent, Church, and King!
Which means that I like all and everything.

XLIX.

Our standing army and disbanded seamen,
Poor's rate, Reform, my own, the nation's debt,
Our little riots just to show we are free men,
Our trifling bankruptcies in the Gazette,
Our cloudy climate, and our chilly women,
All these I can forgive, and those forget,
And greatly venerate our recent glories,
And wish they were not owing to the Tories.

L.

But to my tale of Laura—for I find
Digression is a sin, that by degrees
Becomes exceeding tedious to my mind,
And therefore may the reader too displease—
The gentle reader, who may wax unkind,
And caring little for the author's ease,
Insist on knowing what he means, a hard
And hapless situation for a bard.

LI.

Oh that I had the art of easy writing
What should be easy reading! Could I scale
Parnassus, where the Muses sit inditing
Those pretty poems never known to fail,
How quickly I would print (the world delighting)
A Grecian, Syrian, or Assyrian tale; [ism,
And sell you, mix'd with western sentimental-
Some samples of the finest Orientalism.

LII.

But I am but a nameless sort of person
(A broken Dandy lately on my travels),

* Note in Edition of 1820:—
In talking thus, the writer, more especially
Of women would be understood to say,
He speaks as a spectator, not officially,
And always, reader, in a modest way;
Perhaps, too, in no very great degree shall he
Appear to have offended in this lay,
Since, as all know, without the sex our sonnets
Would seem unfinish'd like their untrimm'd bonnets.
(Signed) Printer's devil.

And take for rhyme, to hook my rambling verse on,
The first that Walker's Lexicon unravels.
And when I can't find that, I put a worse on,
Not caring as I ought for critics' cavils:
I've half a mind to tumble down to prose,
But verse is more in fashion—so here goes.

LIII.

The Count and Laura made their new arrangement, [do,
Which lasted, as arrangements sometimes
For half a dozen years without estrangement;
They had their little differences, too;
Those jealous whiffs, which never any change meant:
In such affairs there probably are few [ble,
Who have not had this pouting sort of squab-
From sinners of high station to the rabble.

LIV.

But, on the whole, they were a happy pair,
As happy as unlawful love could make them;
The gentleman was fond, the lady fair,
Their chains so slight, 'twas not worth while to break them:
The world beheld them with indulgent air;
The pious only wish'd "the devil take them":
He took them not; he very often waits,
And leaves old sinners to be young ones' baits.

LV.

But they were young: Oh! what without our youth [out love!
Would love be!—What would youth be with-
Youth lends it joy, and sweetness, vigor, truth, [above;
Heart, soul, and all that seems as from
But, languishing with years, it grows uncouth— [prove,
One of the few things experience don't im-
Which is perhaps the reason why old fellows
Are always so preposterously jealous.

LVI.

It was the Carnival, as I have said
Some six and thirty stanzas back, and so
Laura the usual preparations made, [go
Which you do when your mind's made up to
To-night to Mrs. Boehm's masquerade,
Spectator, or partaker in the show;
The only difference known between the cases,
Is—*here*, we have six weeks of "varnish'd faces."

LVII.

Laura, when dress'd, was (as I sang before)
A pretty woman as was ever seen,
Fresh as the Angel o'er a new inn door,
Or frontispiece of a new Magazine, [wore,
With all the fashions which the last month
Color'd and silver paper leaved between
That and the title page, for fear the press
Should soil with parts of speech the parts of dress.

LVIII.

They went to the Ridotto;—'tis a hall [again;
Where people dance, and sup, and dance
Its proper name, perhaps, were a masqued ball:
But that's of no importance to my strain.
'Tis (on a smaller scale) like our Vauxhall,
Excepting that it can't be spoilt by rain;
The company is "mix'd" (the phrase I quote is [tice);
As much as saying, they're below your no-

LIX.

For a "mix'd company" implies that, save
Yourself and friends, and half a hundred more,
Whom you may bow to without looking grave,
The rest are but a vulgar set, the bore
Of public places, where they basely brave
The fashionable stare of twenty score [but I,
Of well-bred persons, call'd "*The World*";
Although I know them, really don't know why.

LX.

This is the case in England; at least was
During the dynasty of Dandies, now
Perchance succeeded by some other class
Of imitated imitators—how
Irreparably soon decline, alas!
The demagogues of fashion: all below
Is frail: how easily the world is lost
By love, or war, and now and then by frost!

LXI.

Crush'd was Napoleon by the northern Thor,
Who knock'd his army down with icy hammer,
Stopp'd by the *elements*, like a whaler, or
A blundering novice in his new French grammar;
Good cause had he to doubt the chance of war,
And as for Fortune—but I dare not d—n
Because, were I to ponder to infinity, [her,
The more I should believe in her divinity.

LXII.

She rules the present, past, and all to be yet,
She gives us luck in lotteries, love, and marriage;
I cannot say that she's done much for me yet;
Not that I mean her bounties to disparage,
We've not yet closed accounts, and we shall see yet [carriage;
How much she'll make amends for past mis-
Meantime the goddess I'll no more importune,
Unless to thank her when she's made my fortune.

LXIII.

To turn—and to return;—the devil take it,
This story slips forever through my fingers,
Because, just as the stanza likes to make it,
It needs must be—and so it rather lingers;
This form of verse began, I can't well break it,
But must keep time and tune like public singers;

But if I once get through my present measure,
I'll take another when I'm next at leisure.

LXIV.

They went to the Ridotto ('tis a place
To which I mean to go myself to-morrow,
Just to divert my thoughts a little space,
Because I'm rather hippish, and may borrow
Some spirits, guessing at what kind of face
May lurk beneath each mask; and as my sorrow
Slackens its pace sometimes, I'll make or find,
Something shall leave it half an hour behind.

LXV.

Now Laura moves along the joyous crowd,
Smiles in her eyes, and simpers on her lips;
To some she whispers, others speaks aloud,
To some she curtsies, and to some she dips,
Complains of warmth, and this complaint avow'd,
Her lover brings the lemonade, she sips;
She then surveys, condemns, but pities still
Her dearest friends for being dress'd so ill.

LXVI.

One has false curls, another too much paint,
A third—where did she buy that frightful turban? [faint,
A fourth's so pale, she fears she's going to
A fifth looks vulgar, dowdyish, and suburban;
A sixth's white silk has got a yellow taint,
A seventh's thin muslin surely will be her bane,
And lo! an eighth appears—I'll see no more!
For fear, like Banquo's kings, they reach a score.

LXVII.

Meantime, while she was thus at others gazing,
Others were levelling their looks at her;
She heard the men's half-whisper'd mode of praising,
And, till 'twas done, determined not to stir;
The women only thought it quite amazing
That, at her time of life, so many were
Admriers still—but men are so debased,
Those brazen creatures always suit their taste.

LXVIII.

For my part, now, I ne'er could understand
Why naughty women—but I won't discuss
A thing which is a scandal to the land,
I only don't see why it should be thus;
And if I were but in a gown and band,
Just to entitle me to make a fuss,
I'd preach on this till Wilberforce and Romilly
Should quote in their next speeches from my homily.

LXIX.

While Laura thus was seen, and seeing, smiling,
Talking, she knew not why, and cared not [what,
So that her female friends, with envy broiling,
Beheld her airs, and triumphs, and all that;
And well-dress'd males still kept before her filing, [chat;
And passing bow'd and mingled with her
More than the rest one person seem'd to stare
With pertinacity that's rather rare.

LXX.

He was a Turk, the color of mahogany;
And Laura saw him, and at first was glad,
Because the Turks so much admire philogyny,
Although their usage of their wives is sad;
'Tis said they use no better than a dog any
Poor woman, whom they purchase like a pad; [habit 'em,
They have a number, though they ne'er exFour wives by law, and concubines *ad libitum*.

LXXI.

They lock them up, and veil, and guard them daily,
They scarcely can behold their male relations; [tions,
So that their moments do not pass so gaily
As is supposed the case with northern nations; [palely;
Confinement, too, must make them look quite
And as the Turks abhor long conversations,
Their days are either pass'd in doing nothing,
Or bathing, nursing, making love, and clothing.

LXXII.

They cannot read, and so don't lisp in criticism; [muse;
Nor write, and so they don't affect the
Were never caught in epigram or witticism,
Have no romances, sermons, plays, reviews,— [schism,
In harems learning soon would make a pretty
But luckily these beauties are no "Blues;"
No Bustling Botherbys have they to show 'em
"That charming passage in the last new poem."

LXXIII.

No solemn, antique gentleman of rhyme,
Who, having angled all his life for fame,
And getting but a nibble at a time,
Still fussily keeps fishing on, the same
Small "Triton of the minnows," the sublime
Of mediocrity, the furious tame,
The echo's echo, usher of the school
Of female wits, boy bards—in short, a fool!

LXXIV.

A stalking oracle of awful phrase,
The approving "*Good!*" (by no means GOOD in law),
Humming like flies around the newest blaze,
The bluest of bluebottles you e'er saw,
Teasing with blame, excruciating with praise,
Gorging the little fame he gets all raw,
Translating tongues he knows not even by letter, [better.
And sweating plays so middling, bad were

LXXV.

One hates an author that's *all author*, fellows
In foolscap uniforms turn'd up with ink,
So very anxious, clever, fine, and jealous,
One don't know what to say to them, or think,
Unless to puff them with a pair of bellows;
Of coxcombry's worst coxcombs e'en the pink
Are preferable to these shreds of paper,
These unquench'd snuffings of the midnight taper.

LXXVI.

Of these same we see several, and of others,
Men of the world, who know the world like men, [brothers,
Scott, Rogers, Moore, and all the better
Who think of something else besides the pen;
But for the children of the "mighty mothers,"
The would-be wits and can't-be gentlemen,
I leave them to their daily "tea is ready,"
Smug coterie, and literary lady.

LXXVII.

The poor dear Mussulwomen whom I mention, [people,
Have none of these instructive pleasant
And *one* would seem to them a new invention,
Unknown as bells within a Turkish steeple:
I think 'twould almost be worth while to pension [ill)
(Though best sown projects very often reap
A missionary author, just to preach
Our Christian usage of the parts of speech.

LXXVIII.

No chemistry for them unfolds her gases,
No metapysics are let loose in lectures,
No circulating library amasses
Religious novels, moral tales, and strictures
Upon the living manners, as they pass us;
No exhibition glares with annual pictures;
They stare not on the stars from out their attics,
Nor deal (thank God for that!) in mathematics.

LXXIX.

Why I thank God for that is no great matter,
I have my reasons, you no doubt suppose;
And as, perhaps, they would not highly flatter,
I'll keep them for my life (to come) in prose;
I fear I have a little turn for satire,
And yet methinks the older that one grows
Inclines us more to laugh than scold, though laughter
Leaves us so doubly serious shortly after.

LXXX.

Oh, Mirth and Innocence! Oh, Milk and Water!
Ye happy mixtures of more happy days!
In these sad centuries of sin and slaughter,
Abominable Man no more allays
His thirst with such pure beverage. No matter
I love you both, and both shall have my praise:
Oh, for old Saturn's reign of sugar-candy!—
Meantime I drink to your return in brandy.

LXXXI.

Our Laura's Turk still kept his eyes upon her
Less in the Mussulman than Christian way
Which seems to say, "Madam, I do you honor,
And while I please to stare, you'll please to stay"; [her,
Could staring win a woman, this had won
But Laura could not thus be led astray;
She had stood fire too long and well, to boggle
Even at this stranger's most outlandish ogle.

LXXXII.

The morning now was on the point of break-
A turn of time at which I would advise [ing,
Ladies who have been dancing or partaking
In any other kind of exercise,
To make their preparations for forsaking
The ball-room ere the sun begins to rise,
Because when once the lamps and candles fail,
His blushes make them look a little pale.

LXXXIII.

I've seen some balls and revels in my time,
And stay'd them over for some silly reason,
And then I look'd (I hope it was no crime)
To see what lady best stood out the season;
And though I've seen some thousands in their prime, [please on,
Lovely and pleasing, and who still may
I never saw but one (the stars withdrawn)
Whose bloom could after dancing dare the dawn.

LXXXIV.

The name of this Aurora I'll not mention,
Although I might, for she was nought to me
More than that patent work of God's invention,
A charming woman, whom we like to see;
But writing names would merit reprehension;
Yet if you like to find out this fair *she*,
At the next London or Parisian ball, [all.
You still may mark her cheek, out-blooming

LXXXV.

Laura, who knew it would not do at all
To meet the daylight after seven hours' sit-
Among three thousand people at a ball, [ting
To make her curtsy thought it right and fitting;
The Count was at her elbow with her shawl,
And they the room were on the point of quitting,
When lo! those cursed gondoliers had got
Just in the very place where they *should not*.

LXXXVI.

In this they're like our coachmen, and the cause [hauling,
Is much the same—the crowd, and pulling,
With blasphemies enough to break their jaws,

They make a never intermitted bawling.
At home, our Bow Street gemmen keep the laws,
And here a sentry stands within your calling;
But for all that there is a deal of swearing,
And nauseous words past mentioning or bearing.

LXXXVII.

The Count and Laura found their boat at last,
And homeward floated o'er the silent tide,
Discussing all the dances gone and past;
The dancers and their dresses too, beside;
Some little scandals eke: but all aghast
(As to their palace stairs the rowers glide)
Sate Laura by the side of her Adorer, [her.
When lo! the Mussulman was there before

LXXXVIII.

"Sir," said the Count, with brow exceeding grave,
"Your unexpected presence here will make
It necessary for myself to crave
Its import? But perhaps 'tis a mistake;
I hope it is so; and at once to waive
All compliment, I hope so for *your* sake:
You understand my meaning, or you *shall*."
"Sir," quoth the Turk, "'tis no mistake at all;

LXXXIX.

That lady is *my wife!*" Much wonder paints
The lady's changing cheek, as well it might;
But where an Englishwoman sometimes faints,
Italian females don't do so outright;
They only call a little on their saints,
And then come to themselves, almost or quite [ling faces,
Which saves much hartshorn, salts, and sprink-
And cutting stays, as usual in such cases.

XC.

She said—what could she say? Why not a word:
But the Count courteously invited in[heard:
The stranger, much appeased by what he
"Such things, perhaps, we'd best discuss within,"
Said he: "don't let us make ourselves absurd
In public by a scene, nor raise a din,
For then the chief and only satisfaction[tion."
Will be much quizzing on the whole transac-

XCI.

They enter'd, and for coffee call'd—it came,
A beverage for Turks and Christians both,
Although the way they make it's not the same.
Now Laura, much recover'd, or less loth
To speak, cries, "Beppo? what's your pagan name?
Bless me! your beard is of amazing growth!
And how came you to keep away so long?
Are you not sensible 'twas very wrong?

XCII.

"And are you *really, truly*, now a Turk?
With any other woman did you wive?
Is't true they use their fingers for a fork?
Well, that's the prettiest shawl—as I'm alive!
You'll give it me? They say you eat no pork.
And how so many years did you contrive
To—Bless me! Did I ever? No, I never
Saw a man grown so yellow! How's your liver?

XCIII.

"Beppo, that beard of yours becomes you not;
It shall be shaved before you're a day older:
Why do you wear it? Oh! I had forgot—
Pray, don't you think the weather here is colder?
How do I look? You shan't stir from this spot
In that queer dress, for fear that some beholder [known.
Should find you out and make the story
How short your hair is! Lord! how grey it's grown!"

XCVI.

What answer Beppo made to these demands
Is more than I know. He was cast away
About where Troy stood once, and nothing stands;
Became a slave of course, and for his pay
Had bread and bastinadoes, till some bands
Of pirates landing in a neighboring bay,
He join'd the rogues and prosper'd, and became
A renegado of indifferent fame.

XCV.

But he grew rich, and with his riches grew so
Keen the desire to see his home again,
He thought himself in duty bound to do so,
And not be always thieving on the main;
Lonely he felt, at times, as Robin Crusoe,
And so he hired a vessel come from Spain,
Bound for Corfu: she was a fine polacco,
Mann'd with twelve hands, and laden with tobacco.

XCVI.

Himself, and much (Heaven knows how gotten!) cash,
He then embark'd, with risk of life and limb,
And got clear off, although the attempt was rash.
He said that *Providence* protected him—
For my part, I say nothing—lest we clash
In our opinions;—well, the ship was trim,
Set sail, and kept her reckoning fairly on,
Except three days of calm when off Cape Bonn.

XCVII.

They reach'd the island, he transferr'd his lading,
And self and live stock, to another bottom,
And pass'd for a true Turkey-merchant, trading
With goods of various names, but I've forgot 'em.
However, he got off by this evading, [him;
Or else the people would perhaps have shot
And thus at Venice landed to reclaim
His wife, religion, house, and Christian name.

XCVIII.

His wife received, the patriarch re-baptized him,
(He made the church a present, by the way);
He then threw off the garments which disguised him,
And borrow'd the Count's smallclothes for a day:
His friends the more for his long absence prized him,
Finding he'd wherewithal to make them gay,
With dinners, where he oft became the laugh of them,
For stories—but *I* don't believe the half of them.

XCIX.

Whate'er his youth had suffer'd, his old age
With wealth and talking made him some amends:
Though Laura sometimes put him in a rage,
I've heard the Count and he were always friends.
My pen is at the bottom of a page,
Which, being finish'd, here the story ends;
'Tis to be wish'd it had been sooner done,
But stories somehow lengthen when begun.

MAZEPPA.

ADVERTISEMENT.

"CELUI qui remplissait alors cette place etait un gentilhomme Polonais, nomme Mazeppa, ne dans le palatinat de Podolie: il avait ete eleve page de Jean Casimir, et avait pris a sa cour quelque teinture des belles-lettres. Une intrigue qu'il eut dans sa jeunesse avec la femme d'un gentilhomme Polonais ayant ete decouverte, la mari le fit lier tout nu sur un cheval farouche, et le laissa aller en cet etat. Le cheval, qui etait du pays de l'Ukraine, y retourna, et y porta Mazeppa, demi-mort de fatigue et de faim. Quelques paysans le secoururent: il resta longtems parmi eux, et se signala dans plusieurs courses contre les Tartares. La superiorite de ses lumieres lui donna une grande consideration parmi les Cosaques: sa reputation s'augmentant de jour en jour obligea le Czar a le faire Prince de l'Ukraine."—VOLTAIRE, "Hist. de Charles XII.," p. 196.

"Le roi fuyant, et poursuivi, eut son cheval tue sous lui; le Colonel Gieta, blesse, et perdant tout son sang, lui donna le sien. Ainsi on remit deux fois a cheval, dans sa fuite, ce conquerant qui n'avait pu y monter pendant le bataille."—Ibid. p. 216.

"Le roi alla par un autre chemin avec quelques cavaliers. Le carrosse, ou il etait, rompit dans la marche; on le remit a cheval. Pour comble de disgrace, il s'egara pendant la nuit dans un bois; la, son courage ne pouvant plus suppleer a ses forces epuisees, les douleurs de sa blessure devenues plus insupportables par la fatigue, son cheval etant tombe de lassitude, il se coucha quelques heures au pied d'un arbre, en danger d'etre surpris a tout moment par les vainqueurs, qui le cherchaient de tous cotes."—Ibid. p. 218.

I.

'Twas after dread Pultowa's day,
When fortune left the royal Swede,
Around a slaughter'd army lay,
No more to combat and to bleed.
The power and glory of the war,
Faithless as their vain votaries, men,
Had pass'd to the triumphant Czar,
And Moscow's walls were safe again,
Until a day more dark and drear,
And a more memorable year,
Should give to slaughter and to shame
A mightier host and haughtier name;
A greater wreck, a deeper fall,
A shock to one—a thunderbolt to all.

II.

Such was the hazard of the die;
The wounded Charles was taught to fly
By day and night, through field and flood,
Stain'd with his own and subjects' blood;
For thousands fell that flight to aid:
And not a voice was heard t' upbraid
Ambition in his humbled hour,
When truth had nought to dread from power.
His horse was slain, and Gieta gave
His own—and died the Russians' slave.
This too sinks after many a league
Of well-sustain'd, but vain fatigue;
And in the depth of forests, darkling
The watch-fires in the distance sparkling—
The beacons of surrounding foes—
A king must lay his limbs at length.
Are these the laurels and repose
For which the nations strain their strength?
They lay him by a savage tree,
In outworn nature's agony;
His wounds were stiff—his limbs were stark—
The heavy hour was chill and dark;
The fever in his blood forbade
A transient slumber's fitful aid:
And thus it was; but yet through all,
Kinglike the monarch bore his fall,
And made, in this extreme of ill,
His pangs the vassals of his will:
All silent and subdued were they,
As once the nations round him lay.

III.

A band of chiefs!—alas, how few,
Since but the fleeting of a day
Had thinn'd it; but this wreck was true
And chivalrous: upon the clay
Each sate him down, all sad and mute,
Beside his monarch and his steed,
For danger levels man and brute,
And all are fellows in their need.
Among the rest, Mazeppa made
His pillow in an old oak's shade—
Himself as rough, and scarce less old,
The Ukraine's Hetman, calm and bold;
But first, outspent with this long course,
The Cossack prince rubb'd down his horse,
And made for him a leafy bed,
And smooth'd his fetlocks and his mane,
And slack'd his girth, and stripp'd his rein,
And joy'd to see how well he fed;
For until now he had the dread

His wearied courser might refuse
To browse beneath the midnight dews:
But he was hardy as his lord,
And little cared for bed and board;
But spirited and docile too,
Whate'er was to be done, would do.
Shaggy and swift, and strong of limb,
All Tartar-like he carried him;
Obey'd his voice, and came at call,
And knew him in the midst of all:
Though thousands were around—and Night,
Without a star, pursued her flight—
That steed from sunset until dawn
His chief would follow like a fawn.

IV.

This done, Mazeppa spread his cloak,
And laid his lance beneath his oak,
Felt if his arms in order good
The long day's march had well withstood—
If still the powder fill'd the pan,
And flints unloosen'd kept their lock—
His sabre's hilt and scabbard felt,
And whether they had chafed his belt;—
And next the venerable man,
From out his haversack and can,
Prepared and spread his slender stock;
And to the monarch and his men
The whole or portion offer'd then,
With far less of inquietude
Than courtiers at a banquet would.
And Charles of this his slender share
With smiles partook a moment there,
To force of cheer a greater show,
And seem above both wounds and woe;—
And then he said—"Of all our band,
Though firm of heart and strong of hand,
In skirmish, march, or forage, none
Can less have said or more have done
Than thee, Mazeppa! On the earth
So fit a pair had never birth,
Since Alexander's days till now,
As thy Bucephalus and thou;
All Scythia's fame to thine should yield,
For pricking on o'er flood and field."
Mazeppa answer'd,—"I'll betide
The school wherein I learn'd to ride!"
Quoth Charles,—"Old Hetman, wherefore so,
Since thou hast learn'd the art so well?"
Mazeppa said—"'Twere long to tell;
And we have many a league to go,
With every now and then a blow,
And ten to one at least the foe,
Before our steeds may graze at ease
Beyond the swift Borysthenes:
And, sire, your limbs have need of rest,
And I will be the sentinel
Of this your troop."—"But I request,"
Said Sweden's monarch, "thou wilt tell
This tale of thine, and I may reap,
Perchance, from this the boon of sleep;
For at this moment from my eyes
The hope of present slumber flies."

"Well, sire, with such a hope I'll track
My seventy years of memory back:
I think 'twas in my twentieth spring,—
Ay, 'twas—when Casimir was king—
John Casimir,—I was his page
Six summers in my earlier age:
A learned monarch, faith! was he,
And most unlike your Majesty:
He made no wars, and did not gain
New realms to lose them back again;
And (save debates in Warsaw's Diet)
He reign'd in most unseemly quiet:
Not that he had no cares to vex;
He loved the muses and the sex:
And sometimes these so froward are,
They made him wish himself at war;
But soon his wrath being o'er, he took
Another mistress, or new book:
And then he gave prodigious fêtes—
All Warsaw gather'd round his gates
To gaze upon his splendid court,
And dames, and chiefs, or princely port;
He was the Polish Solomon,
So sung his poets, all but one,
Who, being unpension'd, made a satire,
And boasted that he could not flatter.
It was a court of jousts and mimes,
Where every courtier tried at rhymes;
Even I for once produced some verses,
And sign'd my odes "Despairing Thyrsis."
There was a certain Palatine,
A count of far and high descent,
Rich as a salt or silver mine:*
And he was proud, ye may divine,
As if from heaven he had been sent:
He had such wealth in blood and ore
As few could match beneath the throne,
And he would gaze upon his store,
And o'er his pedigree would pore,
Until by some confusion led,
Which almost look'd like want of head,
He thought their merits were his own.
His wife was not of his opinion—
His junior she by thirty years—
Grew daily tired of his dominion,
And after wishes, hopes, and fears,
To virtue a few farewell tears,
A restless dream or two, some glances
At Warsaw's youth, some songs, and dances,
Awaited but the usual chances,
Those happy accidents which render
The coldest dames so very tender,
To deck her Count with titles given,
'Tis said, as passports into heaven;
But, strange to say, they rarely boast
Of these, who have deserved them most.

V.

"I was a goodly stripling then:
At seventy years I so may say,
That there were few, or boys or men,
Who, in my dawning time of day,
Of vassal or of knight's degree,
Could vie in vanities with me;
For I had strength, youth, gaiety,

* This comparison of a "salt mine" may, perhaps, be permitted to a Pole, as the wealth of the country consists greatly in the salt mines.

A port, not like to this ye see,
But smooth, as all is rugged now;
For time, and care, and war have plough'd
My very soul from out my brow;
And thus I should be disavow'd
By all my kind and kin, could they
Compare my day and yesterday.
This change was wrought, too, long ere age
Had ta'en my features for his page:
With years, ye know, have not declined
My strength, my courage, or my mind,
Or at this hour I should not be
Telling old tales beneath a tree,
With starless skies my canopy.
But let me on: Theresa's form—
Methinks it glides before me now,
Between me and yon chestnut's bough,
The memory is so quick and warm;
And yet I find no words to tell
The shape of her I loved so well:
She had the Asiatic eye,
Such as our Turkish neighborhood
Hath mingled with our Polish blood,
Dark as above us is the sky;
But through it stole a tender light,
Like the first moonrise of midnight;
Large, dark, and swimming in the stream,
Which seem'd to melt to its own beam;
All love, half languor, and half fire,
Like saints that at the stake expire,
And lift their raptured looks on high,
As though it were a joy to die.
A brow like a midsummer lake,
Transparent with the sun therein,
When waves no murmur dare to make,
And heaven beholds her face within.
A cheek and lip—but why proceed?
I loved her then—I love her still;
And such as I am, love indeed
In fierce extremes—in good and ill.
But still we love even in our rage,
And haunted to our very age
With the vain shadow of the past,
As is Mazeppa to the last.

VI.

"We met—we gazed—I saw, and sigh'd;
She did not speak, and yet replied;
There are ten thousand tones and signs
We hear and see, but none defines—
Involuntary sparks of thought,
Which strike from out the heart o'erwrought,
And from a strange intelligence,
Alike mysterious and intense,
Which link the burning chain that binds,
Without their will, young hearts and minds,
Conveying, as the electric wire,
We know not how, the absorbing fire.—
I saw, and sigh'd—in silence wept,
And still reluctant distance kept,
Until I was made known to her,
And we might then and there confer
Without suspicion—then, even then,
I long'd, and was resolved to speak;
But on my lips they died again,
The accents tremulous and weak,
Until one hour.—There is a game,
A frivolous and foolish play,
Wherewith we while away the day;
It is—I have forgot the name—
And we to this, it seems, were set,
By some strange chance, which I forget:
I reck'd not if I won or lost,
It was enough for me to be
So near to hear, and oh! to see
The being whom I loved the most.
I watch'd her as a sentinel,
(May ours this dark night watch as well!)
Until I saw, and thus it was,
That she was pensive, nor perceived
Her occupation, nor was grieved
Nor glad to lose or gain: but still
Play'd on for hours, as if her will
Yet bound her to the place, though not
That hers might be the winning lot.
Then through my brain the thought did pass,
Even as a flash of lightning there,
That there was something in her air
Which would not doom me to despair;
And on the thought my words broke forth,
All incoherent as they were—
Their eloquence was little worth,
But yet she listen'd—'tis enough—
Who listens once will listen twice;
Her heart, be sure, is not of ice,
And one refusal no rebuff.

VII.

"I loved, and was beloved again—
They tell me, sire, you never knew
Those gentle frailties; if 'tis true,
I shorten all my joy or pain;
To you 'twould seem absurd as vain;
But all men are not born to reign,
Or o'er their passions, or as you
Thus o'er themselves and nations too.
I am—or rather *was*—a prince,
A chief of thousands, and could lead
Them on where each would foremost bleed;
But could not o'er myself evince
The like control.—But to resume:
I loved and was beloved again;
In sooth it is a happy doom,
But yet where happiest ends in pain.—
We met in secret, and the hour
Which led me to that lady's bower
Was fiery Expectation's dower.
My days and nights were nothing—all
Except that hour which doth recall
In the long lapse from youth to age
No other like itself—I'd give
The Ukraine back again to live
It o'er once more, and be a page,
The happy page, who was the lord
Of one soft heart, and his own sword,
And had no other gem nor wealth
Save nature's gift of youth and health.—
We met in secret—doubly sweet,
Some say, they find it so to meet;
I know not that—I would have given
My life but to have call'd her mine
In the full view of earth and heaven;

For I did oft and long repine
That we could only meet by stealth.

VIII.

"For lovers there are many eyes,
And such there were on us;—the devil
On such occasions should be civil—
The devil!—I'm loth to do him wrong;
It might be some untoward saint
Who would not be at rest too long,
But to his pious bile give vent—
But one fair night, some lurking spies
Surprised and seized us both.
The Count was something more than wroth—
I was unarm'd; but if in steel,
All cap-à-pie from head to heel,
What 'gainst their numbers could I do,—
'Twas near his castle, far away
From city or from succor near,
And almost on the break of day;
I did not think to see another,
My moments seem'd reduced to few;
And with one prayer to Mary Mother,
And it may be a saint or two,
As I resign'd me to my fate,
They led me to the castle gate:
Theresa's doom I never knew,
Our lot was henceforth separate.—
An angry man, ye may opine,
Was he, the proud Count Palatine;
And he had reason good to be,
But he was most enraged lest such
An accident should chance to touch
Upon his future pedigree;
Nor less amazed that such a blot
His noble 'scutcheon should have got,
While he was highest of his line;
Because unto himself he seem'd
The first of men, nor less he deem'd
In others' eyes, and most in mine.
'Sdeath, with a *page*—perchance a king
Had reconciled him to the thing;
But with a stripling of a page—
I felt—but cannot paint his rage.

IX.

"'Bring forth the horse!' The horse was brought;
In truth he was a noble steed,
A Tartar of the Ukraine breed,
Who look'd as though the speed of thought
Were in his limbs; but he was wild,
Wild as the wild deer, and untaught,
With spur and bridle undefiled—
'Twas but a day he had been caught;
And snorting, with erected mane,
And struggling fiercely, but in vain,
In the full foam of wrath and dread
To me the desert-born was led;
They bound me on, that menial throng,
Upon his back with many a thong;
Then loosed him with a sudden lash—
Away!—away!—and on we dash!—
Torrents less rapid and less rash.

X.

"Away!—away!—my breath was gone—
I saw not where he hurried on:
'Twas scarcely yet the break of day,
And on he foam'd—away!—away!—
The last of human sounds which rose,
As I was darted from my foes,
Was the wild shout of savage laughter,
Which on the wind came roaring after
A moment from that rabble rout:
With sudden wrath I wrench'd my head,
And snapp'd the cord which to the mane
Had bound my neck in lieu of rein,
And, writhing half my form about,
Howl'd back my curse; but 'midst the tread,
The thunder of my courser's speed,
Perchance they did not hear nor heed;
It vexes me—for I would fain
Have paid their insult back again.
I paid it well in after days:
There is not of that castle-gate,
Its drawbridge and portcullis weight,
Stone, bar, moat, bridge, or barrier left;
Nor of its field a blade of grass,
Save what grows on a ridge of wall,
Where stood the hearthstone of the hall;
And many a time ye there might pass,
Nor dream that ere that fortress was:
I saw its turrets in a blaze,
Their crackling battlements all cleft,
And the hot lead pour down like rain
From off the scorch'd and blackening roof,
Whose thickness was not vengeance-proof.
They little thought that day of pain,
When launch'd, as on the lightning's flash,
They bade me to destruction dash,
That one day I should come again,
With twice five thousand horse, to thank
The Count for his uncourteous ride.
They play'd me then a bitter prank,
When, with the wild horse for my guide,
They bound me to his foaming flank:
At length I play'd them one as frank—
For time at last sets all things even—
And if we do but watch the hour,
There never yet was human power
Which could evade, if unforgiven,
The patient search and vigil long
Of him who treasures up a wrong.

XII.

"Away, away, my steed and I
Upon the pinions of the wind,
All human dwellings left behind;
We sped like meteors through the sky,
When with its crackling sound the night
Is chequer'd with the northern light;
Town—village—none were on our track,
But a wild plain of far extent,
And bounded by a forest black;
And, save the scarce seen battlement
On distant heights of some strong hold,
Against the Tartars built of old,
No trace of man. The year before
A Turkish army had march'd o'er;
And where the Spahi's hoof hath trod,
The verdure flies the bloody sod;—
The sky was dull, and dim, and grey,

And a low breeze crept moaning by—
I could have answer'd with a sigh—
But fast we fled, away, away,—
And I could neither sigh nor pray;
And my cold sweat-drops fell like rain
Upon the courser's bristling mane;
But, snorting still with rage and fear,
He flew upon his far career;
At times I almost thought, indeed,
He must have slacken'd in his speed;
But no—my bound and slender frame
Was nothing to his angry might,
And merely like a spur became:
Each motion which I made to free
My swoll'n limbs from their agony
Increased his fury and affright:
I tried my voice—'was faint and low,
But yet he swerved as from a blow;
And, starting to each accent, sprang
As from a sudden trumpet's clang;
Meantime my cords were wet with gore,
Which, oozing through my limbs, ran o'er,
And in my tongue the thirst became
A something fierier than flame.

XII.

"We near'd the wild wood—'twas so wide,
I saw no bounds on either side;
'Twas studded with old sturdy trees,
That bent not to the roughest breeze
Which howls down from Siberia's waste,
And strips the forest in its haste—
But these were few and far between,
Set thick with shrubs more young and green,
Luxuriant with their annual leaves,
Ere strewn by those autumnal eves
That nip the forest's foliage dead,
Discolor'd with a lifeless red,
Which stands thereon, like stiffen'd gore
Upon the slain when battle's o'er,
And some long winter's night hath shed
Its frosts o'er every tombless head,
So cold and stark the raven's beak
May peck unpierced each frozen cheek:
'Twas a wild waste of underwood,
And here and there a chestnut stood,
The strong oak, and the hardy pine;
But far apart—and well it were,
Or else a different lot were mine—
The boughs gave way, and did not tear
My limbs; and I found strength to bear
My wounds, already scarr'd with cold—
My bonds forbade to loose my hold.
We rustled through the leaves like wind,
Left shrubs, and trees, and wolves behind;
By night I heard them on the track,
Their troop came hard upon our back,
With their long gallop, which can tire
The hound's deep hate and hunter's fire:
Where'er we flew they followed on,
Nor left us with the morning sun;
Behind I saw them, scarce a rood,
At daybreak winding through the wood,
And through the night had heard their feet
Their stealing, rustling step repeat.
Oh! how I wish'd for spear or sword,
At least to die amidst the horde,
And perish—if it must be so—
At bay, destroying many a foe.
When first my courser's race begun,
I wish'd the goal already won;
But now I doubted strength and speed.
Vain doubt! his swift and savage breed
Had nerved him like the mountain roe;
Nor faster falls the blinding snow
Which whelms the peasant near the door
Whose threshold he shall cross no more,
Bewilder'd with the dazzling blast,
Than through the forest-paths he pass'd—
Untired, untamed, and worse than wild;
All furious as a favor'd child
Balk'd of its wish; or fiercer still—
A woman piqued—who has her will.

XIII.

"The wood was pass'd; 'twas more than noon,
But chill the air, although in June;
Or it might be my veins ran cold—
Prolong'd endurance tames the bold;
And I was not then what I seem,
But headlong as a wintry stream,
And wore my feelings out before
I well could count their causes o'er:
And what with fury, fear, and wrath,
The tortures which beset my path,
Cold, hunger, sorrow, shame, distress,
Thus bound in nature's nadedness:
Sprung from a race whose rising blood,
When stirr'd beyond its calmer mood,
And trodden hard upon, is like
The rattlesnake's, in act to strike,
What marvel if this worn-out trunk
Beneath its woes a moment sunk?
The earth gave way, the skies roll'd round,
I seem'd to sink upon the ground;
But err'd, for I was fastly bound.
My heart turn'd sick, my brain grew sore,
And throbb'd awhile, then beat no more:
The skies spun like a mighty wheel;
I saw the trees like drunkards reel,
And a slight flash sprang o'er my eyes,
Which saw no further: he who dies
Can die no more than then I died.
O'ertortured by that ghastly ride,
I felt the blackness come and go,
And strove to wake; but could not make
My senses climb up from below:
I felt as on a plank at sea,
When all the waves that dash o'er thee
At the same time upheave and whelm,
And hurl thee towards a desert realm.
My undulating life was as
The fancied lights that flitting pass
Our shut eyes in deep midnight, when
Fever begins upon the brain;
But soon it pass'd, with little pain,
But a confusion worse than such:
I own that I should deem it much,
Dying, to feel the same again;
And yet I do suppose we must
Feel far more ere we turn to dust:
No matter; I have bared my brow

Full in Death's face—before and now.

XIV.

"My thoughts came back; where was I?
Cold,
And numb, and giddy: pulse by pulse
Life reassumed its lingering hold,
And throb by throb; till grown a pang
Which for a moment could convulse,
My blood reflow'd, though thick and chill;
My ear with uncouth noises rang,
My heart began once more to thrill;
My sight return'd, though dim, alas!
And thicken'd, as it were with glass.
Methought the dash of waves was nigh;
There was a gleam, too, of the sky
Studded with stars;—it is no dream;
The wild horse swims the wilder stream!
The bright, broad river's gushing tide
Sweeps, winding onward, far and and wide,
And we are half way, struggling o'er
To yon unknown and silent shore.
The waters broke my hollow trance,
And with a temporary strength
My stiffen'd limbs were rebaptized.
My courser's broad breast proudly braves,
And dashes off the ascending waves,
And onward we advance!
We reach the slippery shore at length,
A haven I but little prized,
For all behind was dark and drear,
And all before was night and fear.
How many hours of night or day
In those suspended pangs I lay,
I could not tell; I scarcely knew
If this were human breath I drew.

XV.

"With glossy skin, and dripping mane,
And reeling limbs, and reeking flank,
The wild steed's sinewy nerves still strain
Up the repelling bank.
We gain the top; a boundless plain
Spreads through the shadow of the night,
And onward, onward, onward seems,
Like precipices in our dreams,
To stretch beyond the sight;
And here and there a speck of white,
Or scatter'd spot of dusky green,
In masses broke into the light,
As rose the moon upon my right:
But naught distinctly seen
In the dim waste would indicate
The omen of a cottage gate;
No twinkling taper from afar
Stood like a hospitable star;
Not even an ignis-fatuus rose
To make him merry with my woes:
That very cheat had cheer'd me then!
Although detected, welcome still,
Reminding me, through every ill,
Of the abodes of men.

XVI.

"Onward we went, but slack and slow;
His savage force at length o'erspent,
The drooping courser, faint and low,
Or feebly foaming went.
A sickly infant had had power
To guide him forward in that hour;
But useless all to me:
His new-born tameness nought avail'd,
My limbs were bound; my force had fail'd,
Perchance, had they been free.
With feeble effort still I tried
To rend the bonds so starkly tied—
But still it was in vain;
My limbs were only wrung the more,
And soon the idle strife gave o'er,
Which but prolong'd their pain:
The dizzy race seem'd almost done,
Although no goal was nearly won:
Some streaks announced the coming sun—
How slow, alas, he came!
Methought that mist of dawning grey
Would never dapple into day;
How heavily it roll'd away—
Before the eastern flame
Rose crimson, and deposed the stars,
And call'd the radiance from their cars,
And fill'd the earth, from his deep throne,
With lonely lustre, all his own.

XVII.

"Up rose the sun: the mists were curl'd
Back from the solitary world
Which lay around—behind—before:
What booted it to traverse o'er
Plain, forest, river? Man nor brute,
Nor dint of hoof, nor print of foot,
Lay in the wild luxuriant soil;
No sign of travel—none of toil;
The very air was mute;
And not an insect's shrill small horn,
Nor matin bird's new voice, was borne
From herb nor thicket. Many a werst,
Panting as if his heart would burst,
The weary brute still stagger'd on;
And still we were—or seem'd—alone:
At length, while reeling on our way,
Methought I heard a courser neigh,
From out yon tuft of blackening firs.
Is it the wind those branches stirs?
No, no! from out the forest prance
A trampling troop; I see them come!
In one vast squadron they advance!
I strove to cry—my lips were dumb.
The steeds rush on in plunging pride;
But where are they the reins to guide?
A thousand horse—and none to ride!
With flowing tail, and flying mane,
Wide nostrils, never stretch'd by pain,
Mouths bloodless to the bit or rein,
And feet that iron never shod,
And flanks unscarr'd by spur or rod,
A thousand horse, the wild, the free,
Like waves that follow o'er the sea,
Came thickly thundering on,
As if our faint approach to meet;
The sight re-nerved my courser's feet,
A moment staggering, feebly fleet,
A moment, with a faint low neigh,

He answer'd, and then fell;
With gasps and glazing eyes he lay,
And reeking limbs immovable,
His first and last career is done!
On came the troop—they saw him stoop,
They saw me strangely bound along
His back with many a bloody thong;
They stop—they start—they snuff the air,
Gallop a moment here and there,
Approach, retire, wheel round and round,
Then plunging back with sudden bound,
Headed by one black mighty steed,
Who seem'd the patriarch of his breed,
Without a single speck or hair
Of white upon his shaggy hide:
They snort—they foam—neigh—swerve aside,
And backward to the forest fly,
By instinct, from a human eye.—
They left me there to my despair,
Link'd to the dead and stiffening wretch,
Whose lifeless limbs beneath me stretch,
Relieved from that unwonted weight,
From whence I could not extricate
Nor him, nor me;—and there we lay,
The dying on the dead!
I little deem'd another day
Would see my houseless, helpless head.

"And there from morn till twilight bound,
I felt the heavy hours toil round,
With just enough of life to see
My last of suns go down on me,
In hopeless certainty of mind,
That makes us feel at length resign'd
To that which our foreboding years
Present the worst and last of fears:
Inevitable—even a boon,
Nor more unkind for coming soon;
Yet shunn'd and dreaded with such care,
As if it only were a snare
That prudence might escape:
At times both wish'd for and implored,
At times sought with self-pointed sword,
Yet still a dark and hideous close
To even intolerable woes,
And welcome in no shape.
And, strange to say, the sons of pleasure,
They who have revell'd beyond measure
In beauty, wassail, wine, and treasure,
Die calm, or calmer, oft than he
Whose heritage was misery;
For he who hath in turn run through
All that was beautiful and new,
Hath nought to hope, and nought to leave;
And, save the future (which is view'd
Not quite as men are base or good,
But as their nerves may be endured),
With nought perhaps to grieve:—
The wretch still hopes his woes must end,
And Death, whom he should deem his friend,
Appears to his distemper'd eyes,
Arrived to rob him of his prize,
The tree of his new Paradise.
To-morrow would have given him all,
Repaid his pangs, repair'd his fall:
To-morrow would have been the first
Of days no more deplored or curst,
But bright, and long, and beckoning years,
Seen dazzling through the mist of tears,
Guerdon of many a painful hour;
To-morrow would have given him power
To rule, to shine, to smite, to save—
And must it dawn upon his grave?

XVIII.

"The sun was sinking—still I lay
Chain'd to the chill and stiffening steed;
I thought to mingle there our clay,
And my dim eyes of death had need,
No hope arose of being freed:
I cast my last looks up the sky,
And there between me and the sun
I saw the expecting raven fly,
Who scarce would wait till both should die,
Ere his repast begun;
He flew, and perch'd, then flew once more,
And each time nearer than before;
I saw his wing through twilight flit,
And once so near me he alit
I could have smote, but lack'd the strength;
But the slight motion of my hand,
And feeble scratching of the sand,
The exerted throat's faint struggling noise,
Which scarcely could be call'd a voice,
Together scared him off at length.—
I know no more—my latest dream
Is something of a lovely star
Which fix'd my dull eyes from afar,
And went and came with wandering beam,
And of the cold, dull, swimming, dense
Sensation of recurring sense,
And then subsiding back to death,
And then again a little breath,
A little thrill, a short suspense,
An icy sickness curdling o'er
My heart, and sparks that cross'd my brain;
A gasp, a throb, a start of pain,
A sigh, and nothing more.

XIX.

"I woke—Where was I?—Do I see
A human face look down on me?
And doth a roof above me close?
Do these limbs on a couch repose?
Is this a chamber where I lie?
And is it mortal, yon bright eye,
That watches me with gentle glance?
I close my own again once more,
As doubtful that the former trance
Could not as yet be o'er.
A slender girl, long-hair'd, and tall,
Sate watching by the cottage wall;
The sparkle of her eye I caught,
Even with my first return of thought;
For ever and anon she threw
A prying, pitying glance on me
With her black eyes so wild and free;
I gazed, and gazed, until I knew
No vision it could be,—
But that I lived, and was released
From adding to the vulture's feast:
And when the Cossack maid beheld

My heavy eyes at length unseal'd,
She smil'd—and I essay'd to speak,
But fail'd—and she approach'd, and made
With lip and finger signs that said,
I must not strive as yet to break
The silence, till my strength should be
Enough to leave my accents free;
And then her hand on mine she laid,
And smooth'd the pillow for my head,
And stole along on tiptoe tread,
And gently oped the door, and spake
In whispers—ne'er was voice so sweet!
Even music follow'd her light feet;—
But those she call'd were not awake,
And she went forth; but ere she pass'd,
Another look on me she cast,
Another sign she made, to say
That I had nought to fear, that all
Were near, at my command or call,
And she would not delay
Her due return.—while she was gone,
Methought I felt too much alone.

XX.

"She came with mother and with sire—
What need of more!—I will not tire
With long recital of the rest
Since I became the Cossack's guest.
They found me senseless on the plain—
They bore me to the nearest hut—
They brought me into life again—
Me—one day o'er their realm to reign!
Thus the vain fool who strove to glut
His rage, refining on my pain,
Sent me forth to the wilderness,
Bound, naked, bleeding, and alone,
To pass the desert to a throne,—
What mortal his own doom may guess?—
Let none despond, let none despair!
To-morrow the Borysthenes
May see our coursers graze at ease
Upon his Turkish bank—and never
Had I such welcome for a river
As I shall yield when safely there.
Comrades, good night!"—The Hetman threw
His length beneath the oak-tree shade,
With leafy couch already made,
A bed nor comfortless nor new
To him, who took his rest whene'er
The hour arrived, no matter where:
His eyes the hastening slumbers steep.
And if ye marvel Charles forgot
To thank his tale, *he* wonder'd not—
The king had been an hour asleep.

THE ISLAND;

OR,

CHRISTIAN AND HIS COMRADES.

1823.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE foundation of the following story will be found partly in Lieutenant Bligh's "Narrative of the Mutiny and Seizure of the Bounty, in the South Seas, in 1789"; and partly in "Mariner's Account of the Tonga Islands."

GENOA, 1823.

CANTO THE FIRST.

I.

THE morning watch was come; the vessel lay
Her course, and gently made her liquid way;
The cloven billow flash'd from off her prow
In furrows form'd by that majestic plough;
The waters with their world were all before;
Behind, the South Sea's many an islet shore.
The quiet night, now dappling, 'gan to wane,
Dividing darkness from the dawning main;
The dolphins, not unconscious of the day,
Swam high, as eager of the coming ray;
The stars from broader beams began to creep,
And lift their shining eyelids from the deep;
The sail resumed its lately shadow'd white,
And the wind flutter'd with a freshening flight;
The purpling ocean owns the coming sun,
But ere he break—a deed is to be done.

II.

The gallant chief within his cabin slept,
Secure in those by whom the watch was kept:
His dreams were of old England's welcome shore,
Of toils rewarded, and of danger o'er;
His name was added to the glorious roll
Of those who search the storm-surrounded Pole.
The worst was over, and the rest seem'd sure,
And why should not his slumber be secure?
Alas! his deck was trod by unwilling feet,
And wilder hands would hold the vessel's sheet;
Young hearts, which languish'd for some sunny isle, [smile;
Where summer years and summer women
Men without country, who, too long estranged,
Had found no native home, or found it changed,
And, half uncivilized, preferr'd the cave
Of some soft savage to the uncertain wave—
The gushing fruits that nature gave untill'd;
The wood without a path but where they will'd; [pour'd
The field o'er which promiscuous Plenty
Her horn; the equal land without a lord;
The wish—which ages have not yet subdued
In man—to have no master save his mood;

The earth, whose mine was on its face, unsold,
The glowing sun and produce all its gold;
The freedom which can call each grot a home;
The general garden, where all steps may roam,
Where nature owns a nation as her child,
Exulting in the enjoyment of the wild; [know,
Their shells, their fruits, the only wealth they
Their unexploring navy, the canoe; [chase;
Their sport, the dashing breakers and the
Their strangest sight, an European face:—
Such was the country which these strangers yearn'd
To see again; a sight they dearly earn'd.

III.

Awake, bold Bligh! the foe was at the gate!
Awake! awake!—Alas! it is too late!
Fiercely beside thy cot the mutineer [fear.
Stands, and proclaims the reign of rage and
Thy limbs are bound, the bayonet at thy breast, [arrest;
The hands, which trembled at thy voice,
Dragg'd o'er the deck, no more at thy command
The obedient helm shall veer, the sail expand;
That savage spirit, which would lull by wrath
Its desperate escape from duty's path,
Glares round thee, in the scarce believing eyes
Of those who fear the chief they sacrifice:
For ne'er can man his conscience all assuage,
Unless he drain the wine of passion—rage.

IV.

In vain, not silenced by the eye of death,
Thou call'st the loyal with thy menaced breath:—
They come not; they are few, and, overawed,
Must acquiesce, while sterner hearts applaud.
In vain thou dost demand the cause: a curse
Is all the answer, with the threat of worse.
Full in thine eyes waved the glittering blade,
Close to thy throat the pointed bayonet laid.
The levell'd muskets circle round thy breast
In hands as steel'd to do the deadly rest.
Thou dar'st them to their worst, exclaiming—
"Fire!"
But they who pitied not could yet admire;
Some lurking remnant of their former awe
Restrain'd them longer than their broken law;
They would not dip their souls at once in blood;
But left thee to the mercies of the flood.

V.

"Hoist out the boat!" was now the leader's cry;
And who dare answer "No!" to Mutiny,
In the first dawning of the drunken hour,
The Saturnalia of unhoped-for power?
The boat is lower'd with all the haste of hate,
With its slight plank between thee and thy fate;
Her only cargo such a scant supply
As promises the death their hands deny;
And just enough of water and of bread
To keep, some days, the dying from the dead:
Some cordage, canvas, sails, and lines, and twine,
But treasures all to hermits of the brine,
Were added after, to the earnest prayer
Of those who saw no hope, save sea and air:
And last, that trembling vassal of the Pole—
The feeling compass—Navigation's soul.

VI.

And now the self-elected chief finds time
To stun the first sensation of his crime,
And raise it in his followers—"Ho! the bowl!"
Lest passion should return to reason's shoal.
"Brandy for heroes!" Burke could once exclaim—*
No doubt a liquid path to epic fame;
And such the new-born heroes found it here,
And drain'd the draught with an applauding cheer.
"Huzza! for Otaheite!" was the cry.
How strange such shouts from sons of Mu-[tiny!
The gentle island, and the genial soil,
The friendly hearts, the feasts without a toil,
The courteous manners but from nature [bought;
caught,
The wealth unhoarded, and the love un-
Could these have charms for rudest sea-boys, driven
Before the mast by every wind of heaven?
And now, even now prepared with others' woes
To earn mild Virtue's vain desire, repose?
Alas! such is our nature! all but aim
At the same end by pathways not the same;
Our means, our birth, our nation, and our name,
Our fortune, temper, even our outward frame,
Are far more potent o'er our yielding clay
Than aught we know beyond our little day.
Yet still there whispers the small voice within,
Heard through Gain's silence, and o'er Glory's din:
Whatever creed be taught, or land be trod,
Man's conscience is the oracle of God.

VII.

The launch is crowded with the faithful few
Who wait their chief, a melancholy crew;
But some remain'd reluctant on the deck
Of that proud vessel—now a moral wreck—
And view'd their captain's fate with piteous eyes:
While others scoff'd his augur'd miseries,
Sneer'd at the prospect of his pigmy sail
And the slight bark so laden and so frail,
The tender nautilus, who steers his prow,
The sea-born sailor of his shell canoe,
The ocean Mab, the fairy of the sea,
Seems far less fragile, and, alas! more free.
He, when the lightning-wing'd tornadoes sweep
The surge, is safe—his port is in the deep—
And triumphs o'er the armadas of mankind,
Which shake the world, yet crumble in the wind.

* [It was Dr. Johnson who said, "Claret is the liquor for boys; port for men; but he who aspires to be a hero (smiling) must drink brandy."—Boswell's Life.]

VIII.

When all was now prepared, the vessel clear
Which hail'd her master in the mutineer—
A seaman, less obdurate than his mates,
Show'd the vain pity which but irritates;
Watch'd his late chieftain with exploring eye,
And told, in signs, repentant sympathy;
Held the moist shaddock to his parch'd mouth,
Which felt exhaustion's deep and bitter drouth. [drawn,
But soon observed, this guardian was with-
Nor further mercy clouds rebellion's dawn.
Then forward stepp'd the bold and froward boy
His chief had cherish'd only to destroy,
And, pointing to the helpless prow beneath,
Exclaim'd, "Depart at once! delay is death!"
Yet then, even then, his feelings ceased not all:
In that last moment could a word recall
Remorse for the black deed as yet half done,
And what he hid from many show'd to one:
When Bligh in stern reproach demanded where
Was now his grateful sense of former care?
Where all his hopes to see his name aspire,
And blazon Britain's thousand glories higher?
His feverish lips thus broke their gloomy spell,
"'Tis that! 'tis that! I am in hell! in hell!"
No more he said; but urging to the bark
His chief, commits him to the fragile ark;
These the sole accents from his tongue that fell,
But volumes lurk'd below his fierce farewell.

IX.

The arctic sun rose broad above the wave;
The breeze now sunk, now whisper'd from his cave;
As on Æolian harp, his fitful wings
Now swell'd, now flutter'd o'r his ocean strings.
With slow, despairing oar, the abandon'd skiff,
Ploughs its drear progress to the scarce seen cliff,
Which lifts its peak a cloud above the main:
That boat and ship shall never meet again!

But 'tis not mine to tell their tale of grief,
Their constant peril, and their scant relief;
Their days of danger, and their nights of pain;
The sapping famine, rendering scarce a son
Known to his mother in the skeleton;
The ills that lessen'd still their little store,
And starved even Hunger till he wrung no more;
The varying frowns and favors of the deep,
That now almost ingulfs, then leaves to creep
With crazy oar and shatter'd strength along
The tide that yields reluctant to the strong;
The incessant fever of that arid thirst [burst
Which welcomes, as a well, the clouds that
Above their naked bones, and feels delight
In the cold drenching of the stormy night,
And from the outspread canvas gladly wrings
A drop of moisten life's all-gasping springs;
The savage foe escaped, to seek again
More hospitable shelter from the main; [last
The ghastly spectres which were doom'd at
To tell as true a tale of dangers past,
As ever the dark annals of the deep
Disclosed for man to dread or woman weep.

X.

We leave them to their fate, but not unknown
Nor unredress'd. Revenge may have her own:
Roused discipline aloud proclaims their cause,
And injured navies urge their broken laws.
Pursue we on his track the mutineer, [fear.
Whom distant vengeance had not taught to
Wide o'er the wave—away! away! away!
Once more his eyes shall hail the welcome bay;
Once more the happy shores without a law
Receive the outlaws whom they lately saw;
Nature, and Nature's goddess—woman—woos
To lands where, save their conscience, none accuse;
Where all partake the earth without dispute,
And bread itself is gathef'd as a fruit;*
Where none contest the fields, the woods, the streams:— [dreams,
The goldless age, where gold disturbs no
Inhabits or inhabited the shore,
Till Europe taught them better than before:
Bestow'd her customs, and amended theirs,
But left her vices also to their heirs.
Away with this! behold them as they were,
Do good with Nature, or with Nature err,
"Huzza! for Otaheite!" was the cry,
As stately swept the gallant vessel by.
The breeze springs up; the lately flapping sail
Extends its arch before the growing gale:
In swifter ripples stream aside the seas,
Which her bold bow flings off with dashing ease. [foam,
Thus Argo† plough'd the Euxine's virgin
But those she wafted still look'd back to home: [bark,
These spurn their country with their rebel
And fly her as the raven fled the ark;
And yet they seek to nestle with the dove,
And tame their fiery spirits down to love.

* The now celebrated bread-fruit, to transplant which Capt. Bligh's expedition was undertaken.

† [The ship in which Jason sailed in search of the Golden Fleece.]

CANTO THE SECOND.

I.

How pleasant were the songs of Toobonai,‡
When summer's sun went down the coral bay!
Come, let us to the islet's softest shade,
And hear the warbling birds! the damsel said:

‡ The first three sections are taken from an actual song of the Tonga islanders, of which a prose translation is given in "Mariner's Account of the Tonga Islands." Toobonai is not, however, one of them; but was one of those where Christian and the mutineers took refuge. I have altered and added, but have retained as much as possible of the original.

The wood-dove from the forest-depth shall coo,
Like voices of the gods from Boolotoo:
We'll cull the flowers that grow above the dead,
For these must bloom where rests the warrior's head;
And we will sit in twilight's face, and see
The sweet moon glancing through the tooa tree,
The lofty accents of whose sighing bough
Shall sadly please us as we lean below;
Or climb the steep, and view the surf in vain,
Wrestle with rocky giants o'er the main,
Which spurns in columns back the baffled spray.
How beautiful are these! how happy they,
Who, from toil and tumult of their lives,
Steal to look down where nought but ocean strives!
Even he too loves at times the blue lagoon,
And smooths his ruffled mane beneath the moon.

II.

Yes—from the sepulchre we'll gather flowers,
Then feast like spirits in their promised bowers,
Then plunge and revel in the rolling surf,
Then lay our limbs along the tender turf,
And, wet and shining from the sportive toil,
Anoint our bodies with the fragrant oil,
And plait our garlands gather'd from the grave,
And wear the wreaths that sprung from out the brave.
But lo! night comes, the Mooa woos us back,
The sound of mats are heard along our track;
Anon the torchlight dance shall fling its sheen
In flashing mazes o'er the Marly's green;
And we too will be there; we too recall
The memory bright with many a festival,
Ere Fiji blew the shell of war, when foes
For the first time were wafted in canoes.
Alas! for them the flower of mankind bleeds:
Alas! for them our fields are rank with weeds:
Forgotten is the rapture, or unknown,
Of wandering with the moon and love alone.
But be it so:—*they* taught us how to wield
The club, and rain our arrows o'er the field:
Now let them reap the harvest of their art!
But feast to-night! to-morrow we depart.
Strike up the dance! the cava bowl fill high!
Drain every drop!—to-morrow we may die.
In summer garments be our limbs array'd,
Around our waists the tappa's white display'd;
Thick wreaths shall form our coronal, like spring's,
And round our necks shall glance the hooni strings;
So shall their brighter hues contrast the glow
Of the dusk bosoms that beat high below.

III.

But now the dance is o'er—yet stay awhile;
Ah, pause! nor yet put out the social smile.
To-morrow for the Mooa we depart,
But not to-night—to-night is for the heart.
Again bestow the wreaths we gently woo,
Ye young enchantresses of gay Licoo!
How lovely are your forms! how every sense
Bows to your beauties, soften'd, but intense,
Like to the flowers on Mataloco's steep,
Which fling their fragrance far athwart the deep!
We too will see Licoo; but—oh! my heart!
What do I say?—to-morrow we depart!

IV.

Thus rose a song—the harmony of times
Before the winds blew Europe o'er these climes.
True, they had vices—such are Nature's growth—
But only the barbarian's—we have both;
The sordor of civilization, mix'd fix'd.
With all the savage which man's fall hath
Who hath not seen Dissimulation's reign,
The prayers of Abel link'd to deeds of Cain?
Who such would see may from his lattice view
The Old World more degraded than the New—
Now *new* no more, save where Columbia rears
Twin giants, born by Freedom to her spheres,
Where Chimborazo, over air, earth, wave,
Glares with his Titan eye, and sees no slave.

V.

Such was this ditty of Tradition's days,
Which to the dead a lingering fame conveys
In song, where fame as yet hath left no sign
Beyond the sound whose charm is half divine,
Which leaves no record to the sceptic eye,
But yields young history all to harmony;
A boy Achilles, with the centaur's lyre
In hand, to teach him to surpass his sire.
For one long-cherish'd ballad's simple stave,
Rung from the rock, or mingled with the wave,
Or from the bubbling streamlet's grassy side,
Or gathering mountain echoes as they glide,
Hath greater power o'er each true heart and ear,
Than all the columns Conquest's minions rear;
Invites, when hieroglyphics are a theme
For sages' labors, or the student's dream;
Attracts, when History's volumes are a toil,—
The first, the freshest bud of Feeling's soil.
Such was this rude rhyme—rhyme is of the rude—
But such inspired the Norseman's solitude,
Who came and conquer'd; such, wherever rise
Lands which no foe destroy or civilize,
Exist: and what can our accomplish'd art
Of verse do more than reach the awaken'd heart?

VI.

And sweetly now those untaught melodies
Broke the luxurious silence of the skies,
The sweet siesta of a summer day,
The tropic afternoon of Toobonai, [balm;
When every flower was bloom, and air was
And the first breath began to stir the palm,
The first yet voiceless wind to urge the wave
All gently to refresh the thirsty cave,
Where sat the songstress with the stranger boy,
Who taught her passion's desolating joy,

Too powerful over every heart, but most
O'er those who know not how it may be lost;
O'er those who, burning in the new-born fire,
Like martyrs revel in their funeral pyre,
With such devotion to their ecstasy,
That life knows no such rapture as to die:
And die they do, for earthly life has nought
Match'd with that burst of nature, even in thought;
And all our dreams of better life above
But close in one eternal gush of love.

VII.

There sat the gentle savage of the wild,
In growth a woman, though in years a child,
As childhood dates within our colder clime,
Where nought is ripen'd rapidly save crime;
The infant of an infant world, as pure
From nature—lovely, warm, and premature;
Dusky like night, but night with all her stars,
Or cavern sparkling with its native spars;
With eyes that were a language and a spell,
A form like Aphrodite's in her shell,
With all her loves around her on the deep,
Voluptuous as the first approach of sleep;
Yet full of life—for through her tropic cheek
The blush would make its way, and all but speak: [threw
The sun-born blood suffused her neck, and
O'er her clear nut-brown skin a lucid hue,
Like coral reddening through the darken'd wave,
Which draws the diver to the crimson cave.
Such was this daughter of the southern seas,
Herself a billow in her energies,
To bear the bark of others' happiness,
Nor feel a sorrow till their joy grew less:
Her wild and warm yet faithful bosom knew
No joy like what it gave; her hopes ne'er drew
Aught from experience, that chill touchstone, whose
Sad proof reduces all things from their hues:
She fear'd no ill, because she knew it not,
Or what she knew was soon—too soon—forgot: [pass
Her smiles and tears had pass'd, as light winds
O'er lakes to ruffle, not destroy, their glass,
Whose depths unsearch'd, and fountains from the hill,
Restore their surface, in itself so still,
Until the earthquake tear the naiad's cave,
Root up the spring, and trample on the wave,
And crush the living waters to a mass,
The amphibious desert of the dank morass!
And must their fate be hers? The eternal change
But grasps humanity with quicker range;
And they who fall but fall as worlds will fall,
To rise, if just, a spirit o'er them all.

VIII.

And who is he? the blue-eyed northern child*
Of isles more known to man, but scarce less wild;
The fair-hair'd offspring of the Hebrides,
Where roars the Pentland with its whirling seas;
Rock'd in his cradle by the roaring wind,
The tempest-born in body and in mind,
His young eyes opening on the ocean-foam,
Had from that moment deem'd the deep his home,
The giant comrade of his pensive moods,
The sharer of his craggy solitudes,
The only Mentor of his youth, where'er
His bark was borne; the sport of wave and air;
A careless thing, who placed his choice in chance,
Nursed by the legends of his land's romance;
Eager to hope, but not less firm to bear,
Acquainted with all feelings save despair.
Placed in the Arab's clime, he would have been
As bold a rover as the sands have seen,
And braved their thirst with as enduring lip
As Ishmael, wafted on his desert-ship;*
Fix'd upon Chili's shore, a proud cacique;
On Hellas' mountains, a rebellious Greek;
Born in a tent, perhaps a Tamerlane;
Bred to a throne, perhaps unfit to reign.
For the same soul that rends its path to sway;
If rear'd to such, can find no further prey
Beyond itself, and must retrace its way,†
Plunging for pleasure into pain: the same
Spirit which made a Nero Rome's worst shame,
A humbler state and discipline of heart,
Had form'd his glorious namesake's counterpart;‡
But grant his vices, grant them all his own,
How small their theatre without a throne!

IX.

Thou smilest:—these comparisons seem high
To those who scan all things with dazzled eye;
Link'd with the unknown name of one whose doom
Has nought to do with glory or with Rome,
With Chili, Hellas, or with Araby;— [sigh;
Thou smilest?—Smile; 'tis better thus than
Yet such he might have been; he was a man,
A soaring spirit, ever in the van,
A patriot hero or despotic chief,
To form a nation's glory or its grief,
Born under auspices which make us more
Or less than we delight to ponder o'er.
But these are visions; say, what was he here?
A blooming boy, a truant mutineer.

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* [George Stewart.]

* The "ship of the desert" is the Oriental figure for the camel or dromedary, and they deserve the metaphor well—the former for his endurance, the latter for his swiftness.

† "Lucullus, when frugality could charm,
Had roasted turnips in the Sabine farm."—POPE.

‡ The consul Nero, who made the unequalled march which deceived Hannibal, and defeated Asdrubal; thereby accomplishing an achievement almost unrivalled in military annals. The first intelligence of his return, to Hannibal, was the sight of Asdrubal's head thrown into his camp. When Hannibal saw this, he exclaimed, with a sigh, that "Rome would now be the mistress of the world." And yet to this victory of Nero's it might be owing that his imperial namesake reigned at all. But the infamy of the one has eclipsed the glory of the other. When the name of "Nero" is heard, who thinks of the consul!—But such are human things!

The fair-hair'd Torquil, free as ocean's spray,
The husband of the bride of Toobonai.

X.

By Neuha's side he sate, and watch'd the waters,—
Néuha, the sun-flower of the island daughters,
Highborn, (a birth at which the herald smiles,
Without a scutcheon for these secret isles,)
Of a long race, the valiant and the free,
The naked knights of savage chivalry,
Whose grassy cairns ascend along the shore
And thine—I've seen—Achilles! do no more.
She, when the thunder-bearing strangers came,
In vast canoes, begirt with bolts of flame,
Topp'd with tall trees, which, loftier than the palm,
Seem'd rooted in the deep amidst its calm:
But when the winds awaken'd, shot forth wings
Broad as the cloud along the horizon flings,
And sway'd the waves like cities of the sea,
Making the very billows look less free;—
She, with her paddling oar and dancing prow,
Shot through the surf, like reindeer through the snow, [edge,
Swift-gliding o'er the breaker's whitening
Light as a nereid in her ocean sledge,
And gazed and wonder'd at the giant hulk,
Which heaved from wave to wave its tramping bulk.
The anchor dropp'd; it lay along the deep,
Like a huge lion in the sun asleep, [chain,
While round it swarm'd the proas' flitting
Like summer bees that hum around his mane.

XI.

The white man landed!—need the rest be told?
The New World stretch'd its dusk hand to the Old;
Each was to each a marvel, and the tie
Of wonder warm'd to better sympathy.
Kind was the welcome of the sun-born sires,
And kinder still their daughters' gentler fires.
Their union grew; the children of the storm
Found beauty link'd with many a dusky form;
While these in turn admired the paler glow,
Which seem'd so white in climes that knew no snow.
The chase, the race, the liberty to roam,
The soil where every cottage show'd a home;
The sea-spread net, the lightly-launch'd canoe,
Which stemm'd the studded archipelago,
O'er whose blue bosom rose the starry isles;
The healthy slumber, earn'd by sportive toils;
The palm, the loftiest dryad of the woods,
Within whose bosom infant Bacchus broods,
While eagles scarce build higher than the crest
Which shadows o'er the vineyard in her breast;
The cava feast, the yam, the cocoa's root,
Which bears at once the cup, and milk, and fruit; [share, yields
The bread-tree, which, without the plough-
The unreap'd harvest of unfurrow'd fields,
And bakes its unadulterated loaves
Without a furnace in unpurchased groves,
And flings off famine from its fertile breast,
A priceless market for the gathering guest;—
These, with the luxuries of seas and woods,
The airy joys of social solitudes,
Tamed each rude wanderer to the sympathies
Of those who were more happy, if less wise,
Did more than Europe's discipline had done,
And civilized Civilization's son.

XII.

Of these, and there was many a willing pair,
Neuha and Torquil* were not the least fair;
Both children of the isles, though distant far;
Both born beneath a sea-presiding star;
Both nourish'd amidst nature's native scenes,
Loved to the last, whatever intervenes
Between us and our childhood's sympathy,
Which still reverts to what first caught the eye.
He who first met the Highlands swelling blue
Will love each peak that shows a kindred hue,
Hail in each crag a friend's familiar face,
And clasp the mountain in his mind's embrace.
Long have I roam'd through lands which are not mine,
Adored the Alp and loved the Apennine.
Revered Parnassus, and beheld the steep
Jove's Ida and Olympus crown the deep:
But 'twas not all long ages' lore, nor all
Their nature held me in their thrilling thrall;
The infant rapture still survived the boy,
And Loch-na-gar with Ida look'd o'er Troy,*
Mix'd Celtic memories with the Phrygian mount, [fount.
And Highland linns with Castalie's clear
Forgive me, Homer's universal shade!
Forgive me, Phœbus! that my fancy stray'd;
The north and nature taught me to adore
Your scenes sublime, from those beloved before.

XIII.

The love which maketh all things fond and fair,
The youth which makes one rainbow of the air,
The dangers past, that make even man enjoy
The pause in which he ceases to destroy,
The mutual beauty, which the sternest feel
Strike to their hearts like lightning to the steel.
United the half savage and the whole,
The maid and boy in one absorbing soul.
No more the thundering memory of the fight
Wrapp'd his wean'd bosom in its dark delight;
No more the irksome restlessness of rest
Disturb'd him like the eagle in her nest,

* When very young, about eight years of age, after an attack of scarlet fever at Aberdeen, I was removed by medical advice into the Highlands. Here I passed occasionally some summers, and from this period I date my love of mountainous countries. I can never forget the effect, a few years afterwards in England, of the only thing I had long seen, even in miniature, of a mountain, in the Malvern Hills. After I returned to Cheltenham, I used to watch them every afternoon at sunset with a sensation which I cannot describe. This was boyish enough; but I was then but thirteen years of age, and it was in the holidays.

Whose whetted beak and far-pervading eye
Darts for a victim over all the sky:
His heart was tamed to that voluptuous state,
At once Elysian and effeminate,
Which leaves no laurels o'er the hero's urn;—
These wither when for aught save blood they burn;
Yet when their ashes in their nook are laid,
Doth not the myrtle leave as sweet a shade?
Had Cæsar known but Cleopatra's kiss,
Rome had been free, the world had not been his. [fame
And what have Cæsar's deeds and Cæsar's
Done for the earth? We feel them in our
The gory sanction of his glory stains [shame:
The rust which tyrants cherish on our chains.
Though Glory, Nature, Reason, Freedom, bid
Roused millions do what single Brutus did—
Sweep these mere mock-birds of the despot's song [so long,—
From the tall bough where they have perch'd
Still are we hawk'd at by such mousing owls,
And take for falcons those ignoble fowls,
When but a word of freedom would dispel
These bugbears, as their terrors show too well.

XVI.

Rapt in the fond forgetfulness of life,
Neuha, the South Sea girl, was all a wife,
With no distracting world to call her off
From love; with no society to scoff
At the new transient flame; no babbling crowd
Of coxcombry in admiration loud,
Or with adulterous whisper to alloy
Her duty, and her glory, and her joy:
With faith and feelings naked as her form,
She stood and stands a rainbow in a storm,
Changing its hues with bright variety,
But still expanding lovelier o'er the sky,
Howe'er its arch may swell, its colors move,
The cloud-compelling harbinger of love.

XV.

Here, in this grotto of the wave-worn shore,
They pass'd the tropic's red meridian o'er;
Nor long the hours—they never paused o'er
Unbroken by the clock's funereal chime, [time,
Which deals the daily pittance of our span,
And points and mocks with iron laugh at man.
What deem'd they of the future or the past?
The present, like a tyrant, held them fast:
Their hour-glass was the sea-sand, and the tide, [glide;
Like her smooth billow, saw their moments
Their clock the sun, in his unbounded tow'r;
They reckon'd not, whose day was but an hour;
The nightingale, their only vesper-bell,
Sung sweetly to the rose the day's farewell;*
The broad sun set, but not with lingering sweep,
As in the north he mellows o'er the deep;
But fiery, full, and fierce, as if he left

* The now well-known story of the loves of the nightingale and rose need not be more than alluded to, being sufficiently familiar to the Western and the Eastern reader.

The world forever, earth of light bereft,
Plunged with red forehead down along the wave,
As dives a hero headlong to his grave.
Then rose they, looking first along the skies,
And then for light into each other's eyes,
Wondering that summer show'd so brief a sun,
And asking if indeed the day were done.

XVI.

And let not this seem strange: the devotee
Lives not in earth, but in his ecstasy;
Around him days and worlds are headless driven,
His soul is gone before his dust to heaven.
Is love less potent? No—his path is trod,
Alike uplifted gloriously to God;
Or link'd to all we know of heaven below,
The other better self, whose joy or woe
Is more than ours; the all-absorbing flame
Which, kindled by another, grows the same,
Wrapt in one blaze; the pure, yet funeral pile,
Where gentle hearts, like Brahmins, sit and smile.
How often we forget all time, when lone,
Admiring Nature's universal throne,
Her woods, her wilds, her waters, the intense
Reply of *hers* to our intelligence! [waves
Live not the stars and mountains? Are the
Without a spirit? Are the dropping caves
Without a feeling in their silent tears?
No, no;—they woo and clasp us to their spheres,
Dissolve this clog and clod of clay before
Its hour, and merge our soul in the great shore.
Strip off this fond and false identity!
Who thinks of self when gazing on the sky?
And who, though gazing lower, ever thought,
In the young moments ere the heart is taught
Time's lesson, of man's baseness or his own?
All nature is his realm, and love his throne.

XVII.

Neuha arose, and Torquil: twilight's hour
Came sad and softly to their rocky bower,
Which, kindling by degrees its dewy spars,
Echoed their dim light to the mustering stars,
Slowly the pair, partaking nature's calm,
Sought out their cottage, built beneath the palm,
Now smiling and now silent, as the scene;
Lovely as Love—the spirit!—when serene.
The Ocean scarce spoke louder with his swell
Than breathes his mimic murmurer in the shell,*
As, far divided from his parent deep,
The sea-born infant cries, and will not sleep,

* If the reader will apply to his ear the sea-shell on his chimney-piece, he will be aware of what is alluded to. If the text should appear obscure, he will find in "Gebir" the same idea, better expressed, in two lines. The poem I never read, but have heard the lines quoted by a more recondite reader, who seems to be of a different opinion from the Editor of the "Quarterly Review," who qualified it, in his answer to the critical reviewer of his "Juvenal," as trash of the worst and most insane description. It is to Mr. Landor, the author of "Gebir," so qualified, and of some Latin poems, which vie with Martial or Catullus in obscenity, that the immaculate Mr. Southey addresses his declamation against impurity.

Raising his little plaint in vain, to rave
For the broad bosom of his nursing wave:
The woods droop'd darkly, as inclined to rest,
The tropic bird wheel'd rockward to his nest,
And the blue sky spread round them like a lake
Of peace, where Piety her thirst might slake.

XVIII.

But through the palm and plantain, hark, a voice!
Not such as would have been a lover's choice,
In such an hour, to break the air so still;
No dying night-breeze, harping o'er the hill,
Striking the strings of nature, rock and tree,
Those best and earliest lyres of harmony,
With Echo for their chorus; nor the alarm
Of the loud war-whoop to dispel the charm;
Nor the soliloquy of the hermit owl,
Exhaling all his solitary soul,
The dim, though large-eyed winged anchorite,
Who peals his dreary pæan o'er the night;—
But a loud, long, and naval whistle, shrill
As ever started through a sea-bird's bill;
And then a pause, and then a hoarse, "Hillo!
Torquil, my boy! what cheer? Ho! brother, ho!" [his eye
"Who hails?" cried Torquil, following with
The sound. . "Here's one," was all the brief reply.

XIX.

But here the herald of the self-same mouth
Came breathing o'er the aromatic south,
Not like a "bed of violets" on the gale,
But such as wafts its cloud o'er grog or ale,
Borne from a short frail pipe, which yet had
Its gentle odors over either zone, [blown
And, puff'd where'er winds rise or waters roll,
Had wafted smoke from Portsmouth to the Pole,
Opposed its vapor as the lightning flash'd,
And reck'd, 'midst mountain billows, un-
To Æolus a constant sacrifice, [abash'd,
Through every change of all the varying skies.
And what was he who bore it?—I may err,
But deem him sailor or philosopher.*
Sublime tobacco! which from east and west
Cheers the tar's labor or the Turkman's rest;
Which on the Moslem's ottoman divides
His hours, and rivals opium and his brides:
Magnificent in Stamboul, but less grand,
Though not less loved, in Wapping or the Strand;
Divine in hookas, glorious in a pipe,
When tipp'd with amber, mellow, rich, and ripe;
Like other charmers, wooing the caress,
More dazzling when daring in full dress,
Yet thy true lovers more admire by far
Thy naked beauties—Give me a cigar!

XX.

Through the approaching darkness of the wood
A human figure broke the solitude,
Fantastically, it may be, array'd,
A seaman in a savage masquerade;
Such as appears to rise out from the deep
When o'er the line the merry vessels sweep,
And the rough saturnalia of the tar [car,*
Flock o'er the deck in Neptune's borrow'd
And, pleased, the god of ocean sees his name
Revive once more, though but in mimic game
Of his true sons, who riot in the breeze
Undreamt of in his native Cyclades.
Still the old god delights, from out the main,
To snatch some glimpses of his ancient reign.
Our sailor's jacket, though in ragged trim,
His constant pipe, which never yet burn'd dim,
His foremast air, and somewhat rolling gait,
Like his dear vessel, spoke his former state;
But then a sort of kerchief round his head,
Not over tightly bound, or nicely spread;
And 'stead of trousers (ah! too early torn!
For even the mildest woods will have their thorn)
A curious sort of somewhat scanty mat
Now served for inexpressibles and hat;
His naked feet and neck, and sunburnt face,
Perchance might suit alike with either race.
His arms were all his own, our Europe's growth,
Which two worlds bless for civilizing both;
The musket swung behind his shoulders broad,
And somewhat stoop'd by his marine abode,
But brawny as the boar's; and hung beneath,
His cutlass droop'd, unconscious of a sheath,
Or lost or worn away; his pistols were
Link'd to his belt, a matrimonial pair—
(Let not this metaphor appear a scoff, [off);
Though one miss'd fire, the other would go
These, with a bayonet, not so free from rust
As when the arm-chest held its brighter trust,
Completed his accoutrements, as Night
Survey'd him in his garb heteroclite.

XXI.

"What cheer, Ben Bunting?" cried (when in full view [new?"
Our new acquaintance) Torquil. "Aught of
"Ey, ey!" quoth Ben, "not new, but news enow; [how?
A strange sail in the offing."—"Sail! and
What! could you make her out? It cannot be;
I've seen no rag of canvas on the sea." [bay,
"Belike," said Ben, "you might not from the
But from the bluff-head, where I watch'd to-
I saw her in the doldrums; for the wind [day,
Was light and baffling."—"When the sun declined [but still
Where lay she? had she anchor'd?"—"No,
She bore down on us, till the wind grew still,"
"Her flag?"—"I had no glass: but fore and aft,
Egad! she seem'd a wicked-looking craft."
"Arm'd?"—"I expect so: sent on the look-
'Tis time, belike, to put our helm about." [out:

* Hobbes, the father of Locke's and other philosophy, was an inveterate smoker,—even to pipes beyond computation.

* This rough but jovial ceremony, used in crossing the line, has been so often and so well described, that it need not be more than alluded to.

"About?—Whate'er may have us now in chase, [base;
We'll make no running fight, for that were
We will die at our quarters, like true men."
"Ey, ey! for that 'tis all the same to Ben."
"Does Christian know this?"—"Ay; he has piped all hands
To quarters. They are furbishing the stands
Of arms; and we have got some guns to bear,
And scaled them. You are wanted."—"That's but fair;
And if it were not, mine is not the soul
To leave my comrades helpless on the shoal.
My Neuha! ha! and must my fate pursue
Not me alone, but one so sweet and true?
But whatsoe'er betide, ah, Neuha! now
Unman me not; the hour will not allow
A tear; I'm thine whatever intervenes!"
"Right," quoth Ben; "that will do for the marines."*

* "That will do for the marines, but the sailors won't believe it," is an old saying; and one of the few fragments of former jealousies which still survive (in jest only) between these gallant services.

CANTO THE THIRD.

I.

THE fight was o'er; the flashing through the gloom,
Which robes the cannon as he wings a tomb,
Had ceased; and sulphury vapors upwards driven
Had left the earth, and but polluted heaven:
The rattling roar which rung in every volley
Had left the echoes to their melancholy;
No more they shriek'd their horror, boom for boom; [doom;
The strife was done, the vanquish'd had their
The mutineers were crush'd, dispersed, or ta'en,
Or lived to deem the happiest were the slain.
Few, few escaped, and these were hunted o'er
The isle they loved beyond their native shore.
No further home was theirs, it seem'd, on earth,
Once renegades to that which gave them birth;
Track'd like wild beasts, like them they sought the wild,
As to a mother's bosom flies the child;
But vainly wolves and lions seek their den,
And still more vainly men escape from men.

II.

Beneath a rock whose jutting base protrudes
Far over ocean in its fiercest moods,
When scaling his enormous crag the wave
Is hurl'd down headlong like the foremost brave,
And falls back on the foaming crowd behind,
Which fight beneath the banners of the wind,
But now at rest, a little remnant drew
Together, bleeding, thirsty, faint, and few;
But still their weapons in their hands, and still
With something of the pride of former will,
As men not all unused to meditate, [fate.
And strive much more than wonder at their
Their present lot was what they had foreseen,
And dared as what was likely to have been;
Yet still the lingering hope, which deem'd their lot
Not pardon'd, but unsought for or forgot,
Or trusted that, if sought, their distant caves
Might still be miss'd amidst the world of waves, [they saw
Had wean'd their thoughts in part from what
And felt, the vengeance of their country's law,
Their sea-green isle, their guilt-won paradise,
No more could shield their virtue or their vice:
Their better feelings, if such were, were thrown [alone.
Back on themselves—their sins remain'd
Proscribed even in their second country, they
Were lost; in vain the world before them lay;
All outlets seem'd secured. Their new allies
Had fought and bled in mutual sacrifice;
But what avail'd the club and spear, and arm
Of Hercules, against the sulphury charm,
The magic of the thunder, which destroy'd
The warrior ere his strength could be employ'd?
Dug, like a spreading pestilence, the grave
No less of human bravery than the brave!*
Their own scant numbers acted all the few
Against the many oft will dare and do:
But though the choice seems native to die free,
Even Greece can boast but one Thermopylæ,
Till *now*, when she has forged her broken chain
Back to a sword, and dies and lives again!

III.

Beside the jutting rock the few appear'd,
Like the last remnant of the red-deer's herd;
Their eyes were feverish, and their aspect worn,
But still the hunter's blood was on their horn.
A little stream came tumbling from the height,
And straggling into ocean as it might,
Its bounding crystal frolick'd in the ray,
And gushed from cliff to crag with saltless spray;
Close on the wild, wide ocean, yet as pure
And fresh as innocence, and more secure,
Its silver torrent glitter'd o'er the deep;
As the shy chamois' eye o'erlooks the steep,
While far below the vast and sullen swell
Of ocean's Alpine azure rose and fell. [first
To this young spring they rush'd,—all feelings
Absorb'd in passion's and in nature's thirst,—
Drank as they do who drink their last, and
Their arms aside to revel in its dew; [threw

* Archidamus, king of Sparta, and son of Agesilaus, when he saw a machine invented for the casting of stones and darts, exclaimed that it was the "grave of valor." The same story has been told of some knights on the first application of gunpowder; but the original anecdote is in Plutarch.

Cool'd their scorch'd throats and wash'd the gory stains [chains;
From wounds whose only bandage might be
Then, when their drought was quench'd, look'd sadly round,
As wondering how so many still were found
Alive and fetterless:—but silent all,
Each sought his fellow's eyes, as if to call
On him for language which his lips denied,
As though their voices with their cause had died.

IV.

Stern, and aloof a little from the rest,
Stood Christian, with his arms across his chest. [spread
The ruddy, reckless, dauntless hue once
Along his cheek was livid now as lead;
His light brown locks, so graceful in their flow,
Now rose like startled vipers o'er his brow.
Still as a statue, with his lips comprest,
To stifle even the breath within his breast,
Fast by the rock, all menacing but mute,
He stood; and, save a slight beat of his foot,
Which deepen'd now and then the sandy dint
Beneath his heel, his form seem'd turn'd to flint.
Some paces further Torquil lean'd his head
Against a bank, and spoke not, but he bled,—
Not mortally:—his worst wound was within;
His brow was pale, his blue eyes sunken in,
And blood-drops, sprinkled o'er his yellow hair,
Show'd that his faintness came not from despair,
But nature's ebb. Beside him was another,
Rough as a bear, but willing as a brother,—
Ben Bunting, who essay'd to wash, and wipe,
And bind his wound—then calmly lit his pipe,
A trophy which survived a hundred fights,
A beacon which had cheer'd ten thousand nights.
The fourth and last of this deserted group
Walk'd up and down—at times would stand, then stoop
To pick a pebble up—then let it drop—
Then hurry as in haste—then quickly stop—
Then cast his eyes on his companions—then
Half whistle half a tune, and pause again—
And then his former movements would redouble, [trouble.
With something between carelessness and
This is a long description, but applies
To scarce five minutes past before the eyes;
But yet *what* minutes! Moments like to these
Rend men's lives into immortalities.

V.

At length Jack Skyscrape, a mercurial man,
Who flutter'd over all things like a fan,
More brave than firm, and more disposed to dare
And die at once than wrestle with despair,
Exclaim'd "G—d damn!"—those syllables intense,—
Nucleus of England's native eloquence,
As the Turk's "Allah!" or the Roman's more
Pagan "Proh Jupiter!" was wont of yore
To give their first impressions such a vent
By way of echo to embarrassment.
Jack was embarrass'd—never hero more,
And as he knew not what to say, he swore:
Nor swore in vain; the long congenial sound
Revived Ben Bunting from his pipe profound;
He drew it from his mouth, and look'd full wise,
But merely added to the oath his *eyes;*
Thus rendering the imperfect phrase complete,
A peroration I need not repeat.

VI.

But Christian, of a higher order, stood
Like an extinct volcano in his mood;
Silent, and sad, and savage,—with the trace
Of passion reeking from his clouded face;
Till lifting up again his sombre eye,
It glanced on Torquil, who lean'd faintly by.
"And is it thus?" he cried, "unhappy boy!
And thee, too, *thee*—my madness must destroy!" [stood,
He said, and strode to where young Torquil
Yet dabbled with his lately flowing blood;
Seized his hand wistfully, but did not press,
And shrunk as fearful of his own caress;
Inquired into his state; and when he heard
The wound was slighter than he deem'd or fear'd,
A moment's brightness pass'd along his brow,
As much as such a moment would allow.
"Yes," he exclaim'd, "we're taken in the toil,
But not a coward or a common spoil; [buy,—
Dearly they've bought us—dearly still may
And I must fall; but have you strength to fly?
'Twould be some comfort still could you survive:
Our dwindled band is now too few to strive.
Oh! for a sole canoe! though but a shell,
To bear you hence to where a hope may dwell!
For me, my lot is what I sought; to be
In life or death, the fearless and the free."

VII.

Even as he spoke, around the promontory,
Which nodded o'er the billows high and hoary,
A dark speck dotted ocean: on it flew
Like to the shadow of a roused sea-mew,
Onward it came—and, lo—a second follow'd—
Now seen—now hid—where ocean's vale was hollow'd;
And near, and nearer, till their dusky crew
Presented well-known aspects to the view,
Till on the surf their skimming paddles play,
Buoyant as wings, and flitting through the spray;—
Now perching on the waves high curl, and now
Dash'd downwards in the thundering foam below [sheet,
Which flings its broad and boiling sheet on
And slings its high flakes, shiver'd into sleet;
But floating still through surf and swell, drew nigh

The barks, like small birds through a lowering sky.
Their art seem'd nature—such the skill to sweep
The wave of these born playmates of the deep.

VIII.

And who the first that, springing on the strand,
Leap'd like a nereid from her shell to land,
With dark but brilliant skin, and dewy eye
Shining with love, and hope, and constancy?
Neuha—the fond, the faithful, the adored—
Her heart on Torquil's like a torrent pour'd:
And smiled, and wept, and near, and nearer clasp'd,
As if to be assured 'twas *him* she grasp'd;
Shudder'd to see his yet warm wound, and then,
To find it trivial, smiled and wept again.
She was a warrior's daughter, and could bear
Such sights, and feel, and mourn, but not despair. [blight
Her lover lived,—nor foes nor fears could
That full-blown moment in its all delight:
Joy trickled in her tears, joy fill'd the sob
That rock'd her heart till almost heard to throb;
And paradise was breathing in the sigh
Of nature's child in nature's ecstasy.

IX.

The sterner spirits who beheld that meeting
Were not unmoved; who are, when hearts are greeting?
Even Christian gazed upon the maid and boy
With tearless eye, but yet a gloomy joy [rays
Mix'd with those bitter thoughts the soul ar-
In hopeless visions of our better days,
When all's gone—to the rainbow's latest ray.
"And but for me!" he said, and turn'd away;
Then gazed upon the pair, as in his den
A lion looks upon his cubs again;
And then relapsed into his sullen guise,
As heedless of his further destinies.

X.

But brief their time for good or evil thought;
The billows round the promontory brought
The plash of hostile oars.—Alas! who made
That sound a dread? All around them seem'd array'd
Against them, save the bride of Toobonai:
She, as she caught the first glimpse o'er the bay
Of the arm'd boats, which hurried to complete
The remnant's ruin with their flying feet,
Beckon'd the natives round her to their prows,
Embark'd their guests and launch'd their light canoes; [twain;
In one placed Christian and his comrades
But she and Torquil must not part again.
She fix'd him in her own.—Away! away!
They clear the breakers, dart along the bay,
And towards a group of islets, such as bear
The sea-bird's nest and seal's surf-hollow'd lair,
They skim the blue tops of the billows; fast
They flew, and fast their fierce pursuers chased
They gain upon them—now they lose again,—
Again make way and menace o'er the main,
And now the two canoes in chase divide,
And follow different courses o'er the tide,
To baffle the pursuit.—Away! away!
A life is on each paddle's flight to-day,
And more than life or lives to Neuha: Love
Freights the frail bark and urges to the cove;
And now the refuge and the foe are nigh—
Yet, yet a moment: Fly, thou light ark, fly!

CANTO THE FOURTH.

I.

White as a white sail on a dusky sea,
When half the horizon's clouded and half free,
Fluttering between the dun wave and the sky,
Is hope's last gleam in man's extremity.
Her anchor parts! but still her snowy sail
Attracts our eye amidst the rudest gale:
Though every wave she climbs divides us more,
The heart still follows from the loneliest shore.

II.

Not distant from the isle of Toobonai,
A black rock rears its bosom o'er the spray,
The haunt of birds, a desert to mankind,
Where the rough seal reposes from the wind,
And sleeps unwieldy in his cavern dun,
Or gambols with huge frolic in the sun;
There shrilly to the passing oar is heard
The startled echo of the ocean bird,
Who rears on its bare breast her callow brood,
The feather'd fishers of the solitude.
A narrow segment of the yellow sand
On one side forms the outline of a strand;
Here the young turtle, crawling from his shell,
Steals to the deep wherein his parents dwell;
Chipp'd by the beam, a nursling of the day,
But hatch'd for ocean by the fostering ray;
The rest was one bleak precipice, as e'er
Gave mariners a shelter and despair;
A spot to make the saved regret the deck
Which late went down, and envy the lost wreck.
Such was the stern asylum Neuha chose
To shield her lover from his following foes;
But all its secret was not told: she knew
In this a treasure hidden from the view.

III.

Ere the canoes divided, near the spot,
The men that mann'd what held her Torquil's lot,
By her command removed, to strengthen more
The skiff which wafted Christian from the shore,

This he would have opposed; but with a smile
She pointed calmly to the craggy isle,
And bade him "speed and prosper." *She* would take
The rest upon herself for Torquil's sake.
They parted with this added aid; afar
The proa darted like a shooting star,
And gain'd on the pursuers, who now steer'd
Right on the rock which she and Torquil near'd. [free
They pull'd; her arm, though delicate, was
And firm as ever grappled with the sea,
And yielded scarce to Torquil's manlier strength.
The prow now almost lay within its length
Of the crag's steep, inexorable face,
With nought but soundless waters for its base;
Within a hundred boats' length was the foe,
And now what refuge but their frail canoe?
This Torquil ask'd with half-upbraiding eye,
Which said—"Has Neuha brought me here
Is this a place of safety, or a grave, [to die?
And yon huge rock the tombstone of the wave?"

IV.

They rested on their paddles, and uprose
Neuha, and pointing to the approaching foes,
Cried, "Torquil, follow me, and fearless follow!"
Then plunged at once into the ocean's hollow.
There was no time to pause—the foes were near—
Chains in his eye, and menace in his ear;
With vigor they pull'd on, and as they came,
Hail'd him to yield, and by his forfeit name.
Headlong he leapt—to him the swimmer's skill
Was native, and now all his hope from ill:
But how, or where? He dived, and rose no more; [shore.
The boat's crew look'd amazed o'er sea and
There was no landing on that precipice,
Steep, harsh, and slippery as a berg of ice.
They watch'd awhile to see him float again,
But not a trace rebubbled from the main:
The wave roll'd on, no ripple on its face,
Since their first plunge recall'd a single trace;
The little whirl which eddied, and slight foam,
That whiten'd o'er what seem'd their latest
White as a sepulchre above the pair [home,
Who left no marble (mournful as an heir);
The quiet proa wavering o'er the tide
Was all that told of Torquil and his bride;
And but for this alone the whole might seem
The vanish'd phantom of a seaman's dream.
They paused and search'd in vain, then pull'd away;
Every superstition now forbade their stay.
Some said he had not plunged into the wave,
But vanish'd like a corpse-light from a grave;
Others, that something supernatural
Glared in his figure, more than mortal tall:
While all agreed that in his cheek and eye
There was a dead hue of eternity.
Still as their oars receded from the crag,
Round every weed a moment would they lag,
Expectant of some token of their prey;
But no—he had melted from them like the spray.

V.

And where was he, the pilgrim of the deep,
Following the nereid? Had they ceased to weep
Forever? or, received in coral caves,
Wrung life and pity from the softening waves?
Did they with ocean's hidden sovereigns dwell,
And sound with mermen the fantastic shell?
Did Neuha with the mermaids comb her hair
Flowing o'er ocean as it stream'd in air?
Or had they perish'd, and in silence slept
Beneath the gulf wherein they boldly leapt?

VI.

Young Neuha plunged into the deep, and he
Follow'd: her track beneath her native sea
Was as a native's of the element,
So smoothly, bravely, brilliantly she went,
Leaving a streak of light behind her heel,
Which struck and flash'd like an amphibious steel.
Closely, and scarcely less expert to trace
The depths where divers hold the pearl in chase,
Torquil, the nursling of the northern seas,
Pursued her liquid steps with heart and ease.
Deep—deeper for an instant Neuha led
The way—then upward soar'd—and as she spread [locks,
Her arms, and flung the foam from off her
Laugh'd, and the sound was answer'd by the rocks.
They had gain'd a central realm of earth again,
But look'd for tree, and field, and sky, in vain.
Around she pointed to a spacious cave,*
Whose only portal was the keyless wave,
(A hollow archway by the sun unseen,
Save through the billows' glassy veil of green,
In some transparent ocean holiday,
When all the finny people are at play,)
Wiped with her hair the brine from Torquil's eyes, [prise;
And clapp'd her hands with joy at his sur-
Led him to where the rock appear'd to jut,
And form a something like a Triton's hut;
For all was darkness for a space, till day
Through clefts above let in a sober'd ray;
As in some old cathedral's glimmering aisle
The dusty monuments from light recoil,
Thus sadly in their refuge submarine [scene.
The vault drew half her shadow from the

VII.

Forth from her bosom the young savage drew
A pine torch, strongly girded with gnatoo;
A plantain-leaf o'er all, the more to keep
Its latent sparkle from the sapping deep.

* Of this cave (which is no fiction) the original will be found in the ninth chapter of "Mariner's Account of the Tonga Islands." I have taken the poetical liberty to transplant it to Toobonai, the last island where any distinct account is left of Christian and his comrades,

This mantle kept it dry: then from a nook
Of the same plantain-leaf a flint she took,
A few shrunk wither'd twigs, and from the blade
Of Torquil's knife struck fire, and thus array'd
The grot with torchlight. Wide it was and high,
And show'd a half-born Gothic canopy;
The arch uprear'd by nature's architect,
The architrave some earthquake might erect;
The buttress from some mountain's bosom hurl'd,
When the Poles crash'd, and water was the world;
Or harden'd from some earth-absorbing fire,
While yet the globe reek'd from its funeral pyre;
The fretted pinnacle, the aisle, the nave*
Were there, all scooped by Darkness from her cave.
There, with a little tinge of phantasy,
Fantastic faces moped and mow'd on high,
And then a mitre or a shrine would fix
The eye upon its seeming crucifix.
Thus Nature play'd with the stalactites,
And built herself a chapel of the seas.

VIII.

And Neuha took her Torquil by the hand,
And waved along the vault her kindled brand,
And led him into each recess, and show'd
The secret places of their new abode.
Nor these alone, for all had been prepared
Before, to soothe the lover's lot she shared:
The mat for rest; for dress the fresh gnatoo,
And sandal oil to fence against the dew;
For food, the cocoa-nut, the yam, the bread
Born of the fruit; for board the plantain spread
With its broad leaf, or turtle-shell which bore
A banquet in the flesh it cover'd o'er;
The gourd with water recent from the rill,
The ripe banana from the mellow hill;
A pine-torch pile to keep undying light,
And she herself, as beautiful as night,
To fling her shadowy spirit o'er the scene,
And make their subterranean world serene.
She had foreseen, since first the stranger's sail
Drew to their isle, that force or flight might fail,
And form'd a refuge of the rocky den
For Torquil's safety from his countrymen.
Each dawn had wafted there her light canoe,
Laden with all the golden fruits that grew;
Each eve had seen her gliding through the hour
With all could cheer or deck their sparry bower;
And now she spread her little store with smiles,
The happiest daughter of the loving isles.

IX.

She, as he gazed with grateful wonder, press'd
Her shelter'd love to her impassion'd breast;
And suited to her soft caresses, told
An olden tale of love,—for love is old,
Old as eternity, but not outworn
With each new being born or to be born:*
How a young chief, a thousand moons ago,
Diving for turtle in the depths below,
Had risen, in tracking fast his ocean prey,
Into the cave which round and o'er them lay;
How in some desperate feud of aftertime
He shelter'd there a daughter of the clime,
A foe beloved, and offspring of a foe,
Saved by his tribe but for a captive's woe;
How, when the storm of war was still'd, he led
His island clan to where the waters spread
Their deep-green shadow o'er the rocky door,
Then dived—it seem'd as if to rise no more:
His wondering mates, amazed within their bark,
Or deem'd him mad, or prey to the blue shark;
Row'd round in sorrow the sea-girded rock,
Then paused upon their paddles from the shock;
When, fresh and springing from the deep, they saw
A goddess rise—so deem'd they in their awe;
And their companion, glorious by her side,
Proud and exulting in his Mermaid bride:
And how, when undeceived, the pair they bore,
With sounding conchs and joyous shouts to shore;
How they had gladly lived, and calmly died,—
And why not also Torquil and his bride?
Not mine to tell the rapturous caress
Which followed wildly in that wild recess
This tale; enough that all within that cave
Was love, though buried, strong as in the grave
Where Abelard, through twenty years of death,
When Eloïsa's form was lower'd beneath
Their nuptial vault, his arms outstretch'd and press'd
The kindling ashes to his kindled breast.†
The waves without sang round their couch, their roar
As much unheeded as if life were o'er;
Within, their hearts made all their harmony,
Love's broken murmur and more broken sigh.

X.

And they, the cause and sharers of the shock
Which left them exiles of the hollow rock,
Where were they? O'er the sea for life they plied,
To seek from Heaven the shelter men denied.
Another course had been their choice—but where?

* This may seem too minute for the general outline (in Mariner's Account) from which it is taken. But few men have travelled without seeing something of the kind on land, that is. Without adverting to Elbora, in Mungo Park's last journal (if my memory do not err, for there are eight years since I read the book) he mentions having met with a rock or mountain so exactly resembling a Gothic cathedral, that only minute inspection could convince him that it was a work of Nature.

* The reader will recollect the epigram of the Greek anthology, or its translation into most of the modern languages:—

"Whoe'er thou art, thy master see—
He was, or is, or is to be."

† The tradition is attached to the story of Eloisa, that when her body was lowered into the grave of Abelard (who had been buried twenty years), he opened his arms to receive her.

The wave which bore them still their foes would bear,
Who, disappointed of their former chase,
In search of Christian now renew'd their race.
Eager with anger, their strong arms made way,
Like vultures baffled of their previous prey.
They gain'd upon them, all whose safety lay
In some bleak crag or deeply-hidden bay:
No further chance or choice remain'd; and right
For the first further rock which met their sight
They steer'd, to take their latest view of land,
And yield as victims, or die sword in hand;
Dismiss'd the natives and their shallop, who
Would still have battled for that scanty crew;
But Christian bade them seek their shore again,
Nor add a sacrifice which were in vain;
For what were simple bow and savage spear
Against the arms which must be wielded here?

XI.

They landed on a wild but narrow scene,
Where few but Nature's footsteps yet had been;
Prepared their arms, and with that gloomy eye,
Stern and sustain'd, of man's extremity,
When hope is gone, nor glory's self remains
To cheer resistance against death or chains,—
They stood, the three, as the three hundred stood
Who dyed Thermopylæ with holy blood. [all,
But, ah! how different! 'tis the *cause* makes
Degrades or hallows courage in its fall.
O'er them no fame, eternal and intense,
Blazed through the clouds of death and beckon'd hence; [tears,
No grateful country, smiling through her
Begun the praises of a thousand years;
No nation's eyes would on their tomb be bent,
No heroes envy them their monument:
However boldly their warm blood was spilt,
Their life was shame, their epitaph was guilt.
And this they knew and felt, at least the one,
The leader of the band he had undone; [set
Who, born perchance for better things, had
His life upon a cast which linger'd yet:
But now the die was to be thrown, and all
The chances were in favor of his fall:
And such a fall! But still he faced the shock,
Obdurate as a portion of the rock
Whereon he stood, and fix'd his levell'd gun,
Dark as a sullen cloud before the sun.

XII.

The boat drew nigh, well arm'd, and firm the crew
To act whatever duty bade them do;
Careless of danger, as the onward wind
Is of the leaves it strews, nor looks behind.
And yet perhaps they rather wished to go
Against a nation's than a native foe,
And felt that this poor victim of self-will,
Briton no more, had once been Britain's still.
They hail'd him to surrender—no reply; [sky.
Their arms were poised, and glitter'd in the
They hail'd again—no answer; yet once more
They offer'd quarter louder than before.
The echoes only, from the rock's rebound,
Took their last farewell of the dying sound.
Then flash'd the flint, and blazed the volleying flame, [aim,
And the smoke rose between them and their
While the rock rattled with the bullets' knell,
Which peal'd in vain, and flatten'd as they fell;
Then flew the only answer to be given
By those who had lost all hope in earth or heaven.
After the first fierce peal, as they pull'd nigher,
They heard the voice of Christian shout,
"Now, fire!"
And ere the word upon the echo died,
Two fell; the rest assail'd the rock's rough side,
And, furious at the madness of their foes,
Disdain'd all further efforts save to close.
But steep the crag, and all without a path,
Each step opposed a bastion to their wrath,
While, placed 'midst clefts the least accessible,
Which Christian's eye was train'd to mark full well, [yield,
The three maintain'd a strife which must not
In spots where eagles might have chosen to build.
Their every shot told; while the assailant fell,
Dash'd on the shingles like the limpet shell;
But still enough survived, and mounted still,
Scattering their numbers here and there, until
Surrounded and commanded, though not nigh
Enough for seizure, near enough to die,
The desperate trio held aloof their fate [bait;
But by a thread, like sharks who've gorged the
Yet to the very last they battled well,
And not a groan inform'd their foes *who* fell.
Christian died last—twice wounded; and once more
Mercy was offer'd when they saw his gore;
Too late for life, but not too late to die,
With, though a hostile hand, to close his eye.
A limb was broken, and he droop'd along
The crag, as doth a falcon reft of young.
The sound revived him, or appear'd to wake
Some passion which a weakly gesture spake:
He beckon'd to the foremost, who drew nigh,
But, as they near'd, he raised his weapon high— [breast
His last ball had been aim'd, but from his
He tore the topmost button from his vest,*
Down the tube dash'd it, levell'd, fired, and smiled
As his foe fell; then, like a serpent, coil'd
His wounded, weary form, to where the steep
Look'd desperate as himself along the deep;

* In Thibault's account of Frederick the Second of Prussia, there is a singular relation of a young Frenchman, who with his mistress appeared to be of some rank. He enlisted and deserted at Schweidnitz; and after a desperate resistance was retaken, having killed an officer, who attempted to seize him after he was wounded, by the discharge of his musket loaded with a button of his uniform. Some circumstances of his court-martial raised a great interest among his judges, who wished to discover his real situation in life, which he offered to disclose, but to the king only, to whom he requested permission to write. This was refused, and Frederick was filled with the greatest indignation, from baffled curiosity or some other motive, when he understood that his request had been denied.

Cast one glance back, and clench'd his hand, and shook [sook;
His last rage 'gainst the earth which he for-
Then plunged: the rock below received like
His body crush'd into one gory mass, [glass
With scarce a shred to tell of human form,
Or fragment for the sea-bird or the worm;
A fair-hair'd scalp, besmear'd with blood and weeds,
Yet reek'd, the remnant of himself and deeds;
Some splinters of his weapons (to the last,
As long as hand could hold, he held them fast)
Yet glitter'd, but at distance—hurl'd away
To rust beneath the dew and dashing spray.
The rest was nothing—save a life mis-spent,
And soul—but who shall answer where it went?
'Tis ours to bear, not judge the dead; and they
Who doom to hell, themselves are on the way,
Unless these bullies of eternal pains [brains.
Are pardon'd their bad hearts for their worse

XIII.

The deed was over! All were gone or ta'en,
The fugitive, the captive, or the slain. [crew,
Chain'd on the deck, where once, a gallant
They stood with honor, were the wretched few
Survivors of the skirmish on the isle;
But the last rock left no surviving spoil.
Cold lay they where they fell, and weltering,
While o'er them flapp'd the sea-bird's dewy wing, [surge,
Now wheeling nearer from the neighboring
And screaming high their harsh and hungry dirge: [low,
But calm and careless heaved the waves be-
Eternal with unsympathetic flow;
Far o'er its face the dolphins sported on,
And sprung the flying fish against the sun,
Till its dried wing relapsed from its brief height,
To gather moisture for another flight.

XIV.

'Twas morn; and Nenha, who by dawn of day
Swam smoothly forth to catch the rising ray,
And watch if aught approach'd the amphibious lair
Where lay her lover, saw a sail in air:
It flapp'd, it fill'd, and to the growing gale
Bent its broad arch; her breath began to fail
With fluttering fear, her heart beat thick and high, [might lie:
While yet a doubt sprung where its course
But no! it came not; fast and far away
The shadow lessen'd as it clear'd the bay.
She gazed, and flung the sea-foam from her eyes,
To watch as for a rainbow in the skies.
On the horizon verged the distant deck,
Diminish'd, dwindled to a very speck—
Then vanish'd. All was ocean, all was joy!
Down plunged she through the cave to rouse her boy; [all
Told all she had seen, and all she hoped, and
That happy love could augur or recall; [free
Sprung forth again, with Torquil following
His bounding nereid over the broad sea;
Swam round the rock, to where a shallow cleft
Hid the canoe that Neuha there had left
Drifting along the tide, without an oar,
That eve the strangers chased them from the shore; [prow,
But when these vanish'd, she pursued her
Regain'd, and urged to where they found it now;
Nor ever did more love and joy embark,
Than now were wafted in that slender ark.

XV.

Again their own shore rises on the view,
No more polluted with a hostile hue;
No sullen ship lay bristling o'er the foam,
A floating dungeon:—all was hope and home!
A thousand proas darted o'er the bay,
With sounding shells, and heralded their way;
The chiefs came down, around the people pour'd,
And welcomed Torquil as a son restored;
The women thronged, embracing and embraced
By Neuha, asking where they had been chased,
And how escaped? The tale was told; and then
One acclamation rent the sky again;
And from that hour a new tradition gave
Their sanctuary the name of "Neuha's Cave."
A hundred fires, far flickering from the height,
Blazed o'er the general revel of the night,
The feast in honor of the guest, return'd
To peace and pleasure, perilously earn'd;
A night succeeded by such happy days
As only the yet infant world displays.

THE LAMENT OF TASSO.

1817.

ADVERTISEMENT.

At Ferrara, in the Library, are preserved the original MSS. of Tasso's "Gierusalemme" and of Guarini's "Pastor Fido," with letters of Tasso, one from Titian to Ariosto, and the inkstand and chair, the tomb and the house, of the latter. But as misfortune has a greater interest for posterity, and little or none for the contemporary, the cell where Tasso was confined in the hospital of St. Anna attracts a more fixed attention than the residence or the monument of Ariosto—at least it had this effect on me. There are two inscriptions, one on the outer gate, the second over the cell itself, inviting unnecessarily the wonder and the indignation of the spectator. Ferrara is much decayed and depopulated; the castle still exists entire; and I saw the court where Parisina and Hugo were beheaded, according to the annal of Gibbon.

I.

Long years!—It tries the thrilling frame to bear,
And eagle-spirit of a child of Song—
Long years of outrage, calumny, and wrong;
Imputed madness, prison'd solitude,

And the mind's canker in its savage mood,
When the impatient thirst of light and air
Parches the heart; and the abhorred grate,
Marring the sunbeams with its hideous shade,
Works through the throbbing eyeball to the brain
With a hot sense of heaviness and pain;
And bare, at once, Captivity display'd
Stands scoffing through the never-open'd gate,
Which nothing through its bars admits, save day,
And tasteless food, which I have eat alone
Till its unsocial bitterness is gone;
And I can banquet like a beast of prey,
Sullen and lonely, couching in the cave
Which is my lair, and—it may be—my grave.
All this hath somewhat worn me, and may wear,
But must be borne. I stoop not to despair;
For I have battled with mine agony,
And made me wings wherewith to overfly
The narrow circus of my dungeon wall,
And freed the Holy Sepulchre from thrall;
And revell'd among men and things divine,
And pour'd my spirit over Palestine
In honor of the sacred war for Him,
The God who was on earth and is in heaven,
For he has strengthen'd me in heart and limb.
That through this sufferance I might be forgiven,
I have employ'd my penance to record
How Salem's shrine was won, and how adored.

II.

But this is o'er—my pleasant task is done:—
My long-sustaining friend of many years!
If I do blot thy final page with tears, [none.
Know that my sorrows have wrung from me
But thou, my young creation! my soul's child!
Which ever playing round me came and smiled,
And woo'd me from myself with thy sweet sight,
Thou too art gone—and so is my delight:
And therefore do I weep and inly bleed
With this last bruise upon a broken reed.
Thou too art ended—what is left me now?
For I have anguish yet to bear—and how?
I know not that—but in the innate force
Of my own spirit shall be found resource.
I have not sunk, for I had no remorse, [why?
Nor cause for such: they call'd me mad—and
O Leonora, wilt not *thou* reply?
I was indeed delirious in my heart
To lift my love so lofty as thou art:
But still my frenzy was not of the mind;
I knew my fault, and feel my punishment
Not less because I suffer it unbent.
That thou wert beautiful, and I not blind,
Hath been the sin which shuts me from mankind;
But let them go, or torture as they will,
My heart can multiply thine image still;
Successful love may sate itself away,
The wretched are the faithful; 'tis their fate
To have all feeling save the one decay,
And every passion into one dilate,
As rapid rivers into ocean pour;
And ours is fathomless, and hath no shore.

III.

Above me, hark! the long and maniac cry
Of minds and bodies in captivity.
And hark! the lash and the increasing howl
And the half-inarticulate blasphemy! [foul,
There be some here with worse than frenzy
Some who do still goad on the o'erlabor'd mind,
And dim the little light that's left behind
With needless torture, as their tyrant will
Is wound up to the lust of doing ill:
With these and with their victims am I class'd,
'Mid sounds and sights like these long years have pass'd; [close:
'Mid sights and sounds like these my life may
So let it be—for then I shall repose.

IV.

I have been patient—let me be so yet;
I have forgotten half I would forget,
But it revives—oh! would it were my lot
To be forgetful as I am forgot!—
Feel I not wroth with those who bade me dwell
In this vast lazar-house of many woes?
Where laughter is not mirth, nor thought the mind, [kind;
Nor words a language, nor even men man-
Where cries reply to curses, shrieks to blows,
And each is tortured in his separate hell—
For we are crowded in our solitudes—
Many, but each divided by the wall,
Which echoes Madness in her babbling moods;— [call—
While all can hear, none heed his neighbor's
None! save that One, the veriest wretch of all,
Who was not made to be the mate of these,
Nor bound between Distraction and Disease.
Feel I not wroth with those who placed me here?
Who have debased me in the minds of men,
Debarring me the usage of my own,
Blighting my life in best of its career, [fear?
Branding my thoughts as things to shun and
Would I not pay them back these pangs again,
And teach them inward Sorrow's stifled groan,
The struggle to be calm, and cold distress,
Which undermines our stoical success?
No!—still too proud to be vindictive—I
Have pardon'd princes' insults, and would die.
Yes, Sister of my Sovereign! for thy sake
I weed all bitterness from out my breast,
It hath no business where *thou* art a guest:
Thy brother hates—but I can not detest;
Thou pitiest not—but I can not forsake.

V.

Look on a love which knows not to despair,
But all unquench'd is still my better part,
Dwelling deep in my shut and silent heart,
As dwells the gather'd lightning in its cloud,
Encompass'd with its dark and rolling shroud,
Till struck—forth flies the all-ethereal dart!

And thus at the collision of thy name [frame,
The vivid thought still flashes through my
And for a moment all things as they were
Flit by me:—they are gone—I am the same.
And yet my love without ambition grew;
I knew thy state, my station, and I knew
A Princess was no love-mate for a bard:
I told it not, I breathed it not, it was
Sufficient to itself, its own reward:
And if my eyes reveal'd it, they, alas,
Were punish'd by the silentness of thine,
And yet I did not venture to repine.
Thou wert to me a crystal-girded shrine,
Worshipp'd at holy distance, and around
Hallow'd and meekly kiss'd the saintly ground:
Not for thou wert a princess, but that Love
Had robed thee with a glory, and array'd
Thy lineaments in beauty that dismay'd—
Oh! not dismay'd—but awed, like One above;
And in that sweet severity there was
A something which all softness did surpass—
I know not how—thy genius master'd mine—
My star stood still before thee:—if it were
Presumptuous thus to love without design,
That sad fatality hath cost me dear;
But thou art dearest still, and I should be
Fit for this cell, which wrongs me—but for *thee*.
The very love which lock'd me to my chain
Hath lighten'd half its weight; and for the rest,
Though heavy, lent me vigor to sustain,
And look to thee with undivided breast,
And foil the ingenuity of Pain.

VI.

It is no marvel—from my very birth [vade
My soul was drunk with love, which did per-
And mingle with whate'er I saw on earth;
Of objects all inanimate I made
Idols, and out of wild and lonely flowers,
And rocks, whereby they grew, a paradise,
Where I did lay me down within the shade
Of waving trees, and dream'd uncounted hours, [Wise
Though I was chid for wandering; and the
Shook their white aged heads o'er me, and said
Of such materials wretched men were made,
And such a truant boy would end in woe,
And that the only lesson was a blow;—
And then they smote me, and I did not weep,
But cursed them in my heart, and to my haunt
Return'd and wept alone, and dream'd again
The visions which arise without a sleep.
And with my years my soul began to pant
With feelings of strange tumult and soft pain;
And the whole heart exhaled into One Want,
But undefined and wandering, till the day
I found the thing I sought—and that was thee;
And then I lost my being, all to be [away—
Absorb'd in thine—the world was pass'd
Thou didst annihilate the earth to me!

VII.

I loved all Solitude, but little thought
To spend I know not what of life, remote
From all communion with existence, save
The maniac and his tyrant:—had I been
Their fellow, many years ere this had seen
My mind like theirs corrupted to its grave.
But who hath seen me writhe, or heard me rave?
Perchance in such a cell we suffer more
Than the wreck'd sailor on his desert shore:
The world is all before him—*mine* is *here*,
Scarce twice the space they must accord my bier.
What though *he* perish, he may lift his eye,
And with a dying glance upbraid the sky—
I will not raise my own in such reproof,
Although 'tis clouded by my dungeon roof.

VIII.

Yet do I feel at times my mind decline,
But with a sense of its decay;—I see
Unwonted lights along my prison shine,
And a strange demon, who is vexing me
With pilfering pranks and petty pains, below
The feeling of the healthful and the free;
But much to One, who long hath suffer'd so,
Sickness of heart, and narrowness of place,
And all that may be borne or can debase.
I thought mine enemies had been but Man,
But Spirits may be leagued with them;—all Earth
Abandons—Heaven forgets me: in the dearth
Of such defence the Powers of Evil can,
It may be, tempt me further—and prevail
Against the outworn creature they assail.
Why in this furnace is my spirit proved
Like steel in tempering fire? because I loved?
Because I loved what not to love, and see,
Was more or less than mortal, and than me.

IX.

I once was quick in feeling—that is o'er:
My scars are callous, or I should have dash'd
My brain against these bars, as the sun flash'd
In mockery through them:—if I bear and bore
The much I have recounted, and the more
Which hath no words—'tis that I would not die,
And sanction with self-slaughter the dull lie
Which snared me here, and with the brand of shame
Stamp Madness deep into my memory,
And woo Compassion to a blighted name,
Sealing the sentence which my foes proclaim.
No—it shall be immortal!—and I make
A future temple of my present cell,
Which nations yet shall visit for my sake.
While thou, Ferrara! when no longer dwell
The ducal chiefs within thee, shalt fall down,
And crumbling piecemeal view thy hearthless halls,
A poet's wreath shall be thy only crown—
A poet's dungeon thy most far renown,
While strangers wonder o'er thy unpeopled walls!
And thou, Leonora! thou—who wert ashamed
That such as I could love—who blush'd to hear
To less than monarchs that thou couldst be dear,

Go! tell thy brother that my heart, untamed
By grief, years, weariness—and it may be
A taint of that he would impute to me—
From long infection of a den like this,
Where the mind rots congenial with the abyss,
Adores thee still;—and add—that when the towers
And battlements which guard his joyous hours
Of banquet, dance, and revel are forgot,
Or left untended in a dull repose,
This, this, shall be a consecrated spot!
But *Thou*—when all that Birth and Beauty throws
Of magic round thee is extinct—shalt have
One-half the laurel which o'ershades my grave.
No power in death can tear our names apart,
As none in life could rend thee from my heart.
Yes, Leonora! it shall be our fate
To be entwined forever—but too late!

THE PROPHECY OF DANTE.

1821.

"'Tis the sunset of life gives me mystical lore,
And coming events cast their shadows before."
CAMPBELL.

DEDICATION.

LADY! if for the cold and cloudy clime,
Where I was born, but where I would not die,
Of the great Poet-Sire of Italy
I dare to build the imitative rhyme,
Harsh Runic copy of the South's sublime,
THOU art the cause; and howsoever I
Fall short of his immortal harmony,
Thy gentle heart will pardon me the crime.
Thou, in the pride of Beauty and of Youth,
Spakest; and for thee to speak and be obey'd
Are one; but only in the sunny South
Such sounds are utter'd, and such charms display'd,
So sweet a language from so fair a mouth—
Ah! to what effort would it not persuade?

RAVENNA, *June* 21, 1819.

PREFACE.

IN the course of a visit to the city of Ravenna in the summer of 1819, it was suggested to the author that, having composed something on the subject of Tasso's confinement, he should do the same on Dante's exile,—the tomb of the poet forming one of the principal objects of interest in that city, both to the native and to the stranger.

"On this hint I spake," and the result has been the following four cantos, in terza rima, now offered to the reader. If they are understood and approved, it is my purpose to continue the poem, in various other cantos, to its natural conclusion in the present age. The reader is requested to suppose that Dante addresses him in the interval between the conclusion of the Divina Commedia and his death, and shortly before the latter event, foretelling the fortunes of Italy in general in the ensuing centuries. In adopting this plan I have had in my mind the Cassandra of Lycophron, and the Prophecy of Nereus by Horace, as well as the Prophecies of Holy Writ. The measure adopted is the terza rima of Dante, which I am not aware to have seen hitherto tried in our language except it may be by Mr. Hayley, of whose translation I never saw but one extract, quoted in the notes to Caliph Vathek; so that—if I do not err—this poem may be considered as a metrical experiment. The cantos are short, and about the same length of those of the poet, whose name I have borrowed, and most probably taken in vain.

Amongst the inconveniences of authors of the present day, it is difficult for any who have a name, good or bad, to escape translation. I have had the fortune to see the fourth canto of "Childe Harold" translated into Italian versicciolti,—that is, a poem written in the Spenserean stanza into blank verse, without regard to the natural divisions of the stanza or of the sense. If the present poem, being on a national topic, should chance to undergo the same fate, I would request the Italian reader to remember that when I have failed in the imitation of his great "Padre Aligher," I have failed in imitating that which all study and few understand, since to this very day it is not yet settled what was the meaning of the allegory in the first canto of the Inferno, unless Count Marchetti's ingenious and probable conjecture may be considered as having decided the question.

He may also pardon my failure the more, as I am not quite sure that he would be pleased with my success, since the Italians, with pardonable nationality, are particularly jealous of all that is left them as a nation,—their literature: and in the present bitterness of the classic and romantic war, are but ill disposed to permit a foreigner even to approve or imitate them, without finding some fault with his ultramontane presumption. I can easily enter into all this, knowing what would be thought in England of an Italian imitator of Milton, or if a translation of Monti, or Pindemonte, or Arici, should be held up to the rising generation as a model of their future poetical essays. But I perceive that I am deviating into an address to the Italian reader, when my business is with the English one; and be they few or many, I must take leave of both.

CANTO THE FIRST.

ONCE more in man's frail world! which I had
So long that 'twas forgotten; and I feel [left
The weight of clay again,—too soon bereft
Of the immortal vision which could heal
My earthly sorrows, and to God's own skies
Lift me from that deep gulf without repeal,
Where late my ears rung with the damned cries [place
Of souls in hopeless bale; and from that
Of lesser torment, whence men may arise

Pure from the fire to join the angelic race;
Midst whom my own bright Beatrice*bless'd
My spirit with her light; and to the base
Of the eternal Triad! first, last, best,
Mysterious, three, sole, infinite, great God!
Soul universal! led the mortal guest,
Unblasted by the glory, though he trod
From star to star to reach the almighty throne.
Oh Beatrice! whose sweet limbs the sod
So long hath press'd, and the cold marble stone,
Thou sole pure seraph of my earliest love,
Love so ineffable, and so alone, [move,
That nought on earth could more my bosom
And meeting thee in heaven was but to meet
That without which my soul, like the arkless dove,
Had wander'd still in search of, nor her feet
Relieved her wing till found; without thy light
My paradise had still been incomplete.†
Since my tenth sun gave summer to my sight
Thou wert my life, the essence of my thought,
Loved ere I knew the name of love, and bright
Still in these dim old eyes, now overwrought
With the world's war, and years, and banishment,
And tears for thee, by other woes untaught;
For mine is not a nature to be bent
By tyrannous faction, and the brawling crowd, [spent
And though the long, long conflict hath been
In vain, and never more, save when the cloud
Which overhangs the Apennine, my mind's eye
Pierces to fancy Florence, once so proud
Of me, can I return, though but to die,
Unto my native soil, they have not yet
Quench'd the old exile's spirit, stern and high.
But the sun, though not overcast, must set,
And the night cometh; I am old in days,
And deeds, and contemplation, and have met
Destruction face to face in all its ways.
The world hath left me, what it found me, pure,
And if I have not gather'd yet its praise,
I sought it not by any baser lure; [name
Man wrongs, and Time avenges, and my
May form a monument not all obscure,
Though such was not my ambition's end or aim,
To add to the vainglorious list of those
Who dabble in the pettiness of fame,

And make men's fickle breath the wind that blows
Their sail, and deem it glory to be class'd
With conquerors, and virtue's other foes,
In bloody chronicles of ages past. [free;*
I would have had my Florence great and
Oh Florence! Florence! unto me thou wast
Like that Jerusalem which the Almighty He
Wept over, "but thou wouldst not"; as the bird [thee
Gathers its young, I would have gather'd
Beneath a parent pinion, hadst thou heard
My voice; but as the adder, deaf and fierce,
Against the breast that cherish'd thee was stirr'd
Thy venom, and my state thou didst amerce,
And doom this body forfeit to the fire.
Alas! how bitter is his country's curse
To him who *for* that country would expire,
But did not merit to expire *by* her,
And loves her, loves her even in her ire!
The day may come when she will cease to err,
The day may come she would be proud to have
The dust she dooms to scatter, and transfer
Of him, whom she denied a home, the grave.
But this shall not be granted; let my dust
Lie where it falls; nor shall the soil which gave
Me breath, but in her sudden fury thrust
Me forth to breathe elsewhere, so reassume
My indignant bones, because her angry gust
Forsooth is over, and repeal'd her doom;
No,—she denied me what was mine—my roof, [tomb.
And shall not have what is not hers—my
Too long her armèd wrath hath kept aloof
The breast which would have bled for her, the heart
That beat, the mind that was temptation-proof,
The man who fought, toil'd, travell'd, and each
Of a true citizen fulfill'd, and saw [part
For his reward, the Guelf's ascendant art
Pass his destruction even into a law.
These things are not made for forgetfulness,
Florence shall be forgotten first; too raw
The wound, too deep the wrong, and the distress
Of such endurance too prolong'd to make
My pardon greater, her injustice less,
Though late repented, yet—yet for her sake
I feel some fonder yearnings, and for thine
My own Beatrice, I would hardly take
Vengeance upon the land which once was mine,
And still is hallow'd by thy dust's return,
Which would protect the murderess like a shrine,
And save ten thousand foes by thy sole urn.

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* The reader is requested to adopt the Italian pronunciation of Beatrice,‡ sounding all the syllables.

† "Che sol per le belle opre
Che fanno in Cielo il sole e l' altre stelle
Dentro di lui, si crede il Paradiso,
Cosi se guardi fiso
Pensar ben dei ch' ogni terren" piacere.
Canzone, in which Dante describes the person of Beatrice, Strophe third.

‡ [Beatri-che.]

* "L'Esilio che m' e dato onor mi tegno.
Cadar tra' bonni e pur di lode degno."
Sonnet of Dante, in which he represents Right, Generosity, and Temperance as banished from among men, and seeking refuge from Love, who inhabits his bosom.

Though, like old Marius from Minturnæ's marsh [burn
And Carthage ruins, my lone breast may
At times with evil feelings hot and harsh
And sometimes the last pangs of a vile foe
Writhe in a dream before me, and o'erarch
My brow with hopes of triumph,—let them go!
Such are the last infirmities of those [woe,
Who long have suffer'd more than mortal
And yet being mortal still have no repose
But on the pillow of Revenge—Revenge,
Who sleeps to dream of blood, and waking glows
With the oft-baffled slakeless thirst of change,
When we shall mount again, and they that trod
Be trampled on, while Death and Até range
O'er humbled heads and sever'd necks——
Great God! [I yield
Take these thoughts from me—to thy hands
My many wrongs, and thine almighty rod
Will fall on those that smote me,—be my shield!
As thou has been in peril, and in pain,
In turbulent cities, and the tented field—
In toil, and many troubles borne in vain,
For Florence.—I appeal from her to Thee!
Thee whom I late saw in thy loftiest reign,
Even in that glorious vision, which to see
And live was never granted until now,
And yet thou hast permitted this to me.
Alas! with what a weight upon my brow
The sense of earth and earthly things come back,
Corrosive passions, feelings dull and low,
The heart's quick throb upon the mental rack,
Long day, and dreary night; the retrospect
Of half a century bloody and black,
And the frail few years I may expect
Hoary and hopeless, but less hard to bear,
For I have been too long and deeply wreck'd
On the lone rock of desolate Despair,
To lift my eyes more to the passing sail
Which shuns that reef so horrible and bare;
Nor raise my voice—for who would heed my
I am not of this people, nor this age, [wail?
And yet my harpings will unfold a tale
Which shall preserve these times when not a page
Of their perturbed annals could attract
An eye to gaze upon their civil rage,
Did not my verse embalm full many an act
Worthless as they who wrought it: 'tis the doom
Of spirits of my order to be rack'd
In life, to wear their hearts out, and consume
Their days in endless strife, and die alone;
Then future thousands crowd around their tomb, [have known
And pilgrims come from climes where they
The name of him—who now is but a name.
And wasting homage o'er the sullen stone,
Spread his—by him unheard, unheeded—fame;
And mine at least hath cost me dear: to die
Is nothing; but to wither thus—to tame
My mind down from its own infinity—
To live in narrow ways with little men,
A common sight to every common eye,
A wanderer, while even wolves can find a den,
Ripp'd from all kindred, from all home, all things [pain—
That make communion sweet, and soften
To feel me in the solitude of kings [crown—
Without the power that makes them bear a
To envy every dove his nest and wings
Which waft him where the Apennine looks down
On Arno, till he perches, it may be,
Within my all inexorable town,
Where yet my boys are, and that fatal she,*
Their mother, the cold partner who hath brought
Destruction for a dowry—this to see
And feel, and know without repair, hath taught
A bitter lesson; but it leaves me free:
I have not vilely found, nor basely sought,
They made an Exile—not a slave of me.

* This lady, whose name was Gemma, sprung from one of the most powerful Guelph families named Donati. Corso Donati was the principal adversary of the Ghibellines. She is described as being "Admodum morosa, ut de Xantippe Socratis philosophi conjuge scriptum esse legimus," according to Giannozzo Manetti. But Lionardo Aretino is scandalized with Boccace, in his Life of Dante, for saying that literary men should not marry. "Qui il Boccaccio non ha pazienza, e dice, le mogli esser contrarie agli studj; e non si ricorda che Socrate il piu nobile filosofo che mai fosse, ebbe moglie e figliuoli e uffici della Repubblica nella sua Citta; e Aristotele che, etc., etc., ebbe due mogli in varj tempi, ed ebbe figliuoli, e ricchezze assai.—E Marco Tullio—e Catone—e Varrone—e Seneca—ebbero moglie," etc., etc. It is odd that honest Lionardo's examples, with the exception of Seneca, and, for anything I know, Aristotle, are not the most felicitous. Tully's Terentia, and Socrates' Xantippe, by no means contributed to their husbands' happiness, whatever they might do to their philosophy—Cato gave away his wife—of Varro's we know nothing—and of Seneca's, only that she was disposed to die with him, but recovered and lived several years afterwards. But says Lionardo, "L'uomo e animale civile, secondo piace a tutti i filosofi." And thence concludes that the greatest proof of the animal's civism is "la prima congiunzione, dalla quale multiplicata nasce la Citta."

CANTO THE SECOND.

The Spirit of the fervent days of Old,
When words were things that came to pass, and thought
Flash'd o'er the future, bidding men behold
Their children's children's doom already brought
Forth from the abyss of time which is to be,
The chaos of events, where lie half-wrought
Shapes that must undergo mortality;
What the great Seers of Israel wore within,
That spirit was on them, and is on me,
And if, Cassandra-like, amidst the din
Of conflict none will hear, or hearing heed
This voice from out the Wilderness, the sin
Be theirs, and my own feelings be my meed,
The only guerdon I have ever known.

Hast thou not bled? and hast thou still to bleed,
Italia? Ah! to me such things, foreshown
With dim sepulchral light, bid me forget
In thine irreparable wrongs my own;
We can have but one country, and even yet
Thou'rt mine—my bones shall be within thy breast,
My soul within thy language, which once set
With our old Roman sway in the wide West;
But I will make another tongue arise
As lofty and more sweet, in which express'd
The hero's ardor, or the lover's sighs,
Shall find alike such sounds for every theme,
That every word, as brilliant as thy skies,
Shall realize a poet's proudest dream, [song;
And make thee Europe's nightingale of
So that all present speech to thine shall seem
The note of meaner birds, and every tongue
Confess its barbarism when compared with thine. [wrong,
This shalt thou owe to him thou didst so
Thy Tuscan bard, the banish'd Ghibelline.
Woe! woe! the veil of coming centuries
Is rent,—a thousand years which yet supine
Lie like the ocean waves ere winds arise,
Heaving in dark and sullen undulation,
Float from eternity into these eyes;
The storms yet sleep, the clouds still keep their station,
The unborn earthquake yet is in the womb,
The bloody chaos yet expects creation,
But all things are disposing for thy doom;
The elements await but for the word,
"Let there be darkness!" and thou grow'st a tomb!
Yes! thou, so beautiful, shalt feel the sword,
Thou, Italy! so fair that Paradise, [stored:
Revived in thee, blooms forth to man re-
Ah! must the sons of Adam lose it twice?
Thou, Italy! whose ever-golden fields,
Plough'd by the sunbeams solely, would suffice [heaven gilds
For the world's granary; thou, whose sky
With brighter stars, and robes with deeper blue; [builds
Thou, in whose pleasant places Summer
Her palace, in whose cradle Empire grew,
And form'd the Eternal City's ornaments
From spoils of kings whom freemen overthrew:
Birthplace of heroes, sanctuary of saints,
Where earthly first, then heavenly glory made [paints,
Her home; thou, all which fondest fancy
And finds her prior vision but portray'd
In feeble colors, when the eye—from the Alp
Of horrid snow, and rock, and shaggy shade
Of desert-loving pine, whose emerald scalp
Nods to the storm—dilates and dotes o'er thee,
And wistfully implores, as 'twere for help
To see thy sunny fields, my Italy,
Nearer and nearer yet, and dearer still
The more approach'd, and dearest were they free.
Thou—thou must wither to each tyrant's will:
The Goth hath been,—the German, Frank, and Hun
Are yet to come,—and on the imperial hill
Ruin, already proud of the deeds done
By the old barbarians, there awaits the new,
Throned on the Palatine, while lost and won
Rome at her feet lies bleeding; and the hue
Of human sacrifice and Roman slaughter
Troubles the clotted air, of late so blue,
And deepens into red the saffron water
Of Tiber, thick with dead; the helpless priest, [ter,
And still more helpless nor less holy daugh-
Vow'd to their God, have shrieking fled, and ceased
Their ministry: the nations take their prey.
Iberian, Almain, Lombard, and the beast
And bird, wolf, vulture, more humane than they
Are; these but gorge the flesh and lap the gore
Of the departed, and then go their way;
But those, the human savages, explore
All paths of torture, and insatiate yet,
With Ugolino hunger prowl for more.
Nine moons shall rise o'er scenes like this and set;*
The chiefless army of the dead, which late
Beneath the traitor Prince's banner met,
Hath left its leader's ashes at the gate;
Had but the royal Rebel lived, perchance
Thou hadst been spared, but his involved thy fate.
Oh! Rome, the spoiler of the spoil of France,
From Brennus to the Bourbon, never, never
Shall foreign standard to thy walls advance
But Tiber shall become a mournful river.
Oh! when the strangers pass the Alps and Po, [and forever!
Crush them, ye rocks! floods whelm them,
Why sleep the idle avalanches so,
To topple on the lonely pilgrim's head?
Why doth Eridanus but overflow
The peasant's harvest from his turbid bed?
Were not each barbarous horde a nobler prey?
Over Cambyses' host the desert spread
Her sandy ocean, and the sea-waves' sway
Roll'd over Pharaoh and his thousands,—why,
Mountains and waters, do ye not as they?
And you, ye men! Romans who dare not die,
Sons of the conquerors who overthrew
Those who o'erthrew proud Xerxes, where yet lie
The dead whose tomb Oblivion never knew,
Are the Alps weaker than Thermopylæ?
Their passes more alluring to the view
Of an invader? is it they, or ye,
That to each host the mountain-gate unbar,
And leave the march in peace, the passage free?

* See "Sacco di Roma," generally attributed to Guicciardini. There is another written by a Jacopo Buonaparte.

Why, Nature's self detains the victor's car,
And make your land impregnable, if earth
Could be so; but alone she will not war,
Yet aids the warrior worthy of his birth
In a soil where the mothers bring forth men:
Not so with those whose souls are little worth;
For them no fortress can avail,—the den
Of the poor reptile which preserves its sting
Is more secure than walls of adamant, when
The hearts of those within are quivering.
Are ye not brave? Yes, yet the Ausonian soil [hosts to bring
Hath hearts, and hands, and arms, and
Against Oppression; but how vain the toil,
While still Division sows the seeds of woe
And weakness, till the stranger reaps the spoil.
Oh! my own beauteous land! so long laid low,
So long the grave of thy own children's hopes,
When there is required but a single blow
To break the chain, yet—yet the Avenger stops,
And Doubt and Discord step 'twixt thine and thee, [thee copes;
And join their strength to that which with
What is there wanting then to set thee free,
And show thy beauty in its fullest light?
To make the Alps impassable; and we,
Her sons, may do this with *one* deed—Unite.

CANTO THE THIRD.

From out the mass of never-dying ill,
The Plague, the Prince, the Stranger, and the Sword,
Vials of wrath but emptied to refill
And flow again, I cannot recall all record
That crowds on my prophetic eye: the earth
And ocean written o'er would not afford
Space for the annal, yet it shall go forth;
Yes, all, though not by human pen, is graven,
There where the farthest suns and stars have birth,
Spread like a banner at the gate of heaven,
The bloody scroll of our millennial wrongs
Waves, and the echo of our groans is driven
Athwart the sound of archangelic songs,
And Italy, the martyr'd nation's gore,
Will not in vain arise to where belongs
Omnipotence and mercy evermore:
Like to a harp-string stricken by the wind,
The sound of her lament shall, rising o'er
The seraph voices, touch the Almighty Mind.
Meantime I, humblest of thy sons, and of
Earth's dust by immortality refined [scoff,
To sense and suffering, though the vain may
And tyrant's threat, and meeker victims bow
Before the storm because its breath is rough,
To thee, my country! whom before, as now,
I loved and love, devote the mournful lyre
And melancholy gift high powers allow
To read the future; and if now my fire
Is not as once it shone o'er thee, forgive!
I but foretell thy fortunes—then expire;
Think not that I would look on them and live.
A spirit forces me to see and speak,
And for thy guerdon grants *not* to survive;
My heart shall be pour'd over thee and break:
Yet for a moment, ere I must resume
Thy sable web of sorrow, let me take
Over the gleams that flash athwart thy gloom
A softer glimpse; some stars shine through thy night,
And many meteors, and above thy tomb
Leans sculptured Beauty, which Death cannot blight;
And from thine ashes boundless spirits rise
To give thee honor and the earth delight;
Thy soil shall still be pregnant with the wise,
The gay, the learn'd, the generous, and the brave,
Native to thee as summer to thy skies,
Conquerors on foreign shores, and the far wave,*
Discoverers of new worlds, which take their name;†
For *thee* alone they have no arm to save,
And all thy recompense is in their fame,
A noble one to them, but not to thee—
Shall they be glorious, and thou still the same?
Oh! more than these illustrous far shall be
The being—and even yet he may be born—
The mortal saviour who shall set thee free,
And see thy diadem, so changed and worn
By fresh barbarians, on thy brow replaced;
And the sweet sun replenishing thy morn,
Thy moral morn, too long with clouds defaced,
And noxious vapors from Avernus risen,
Such as all they must breathe who are debased
By servitude, and have the mind in prison.
Yet through this centuried eclipse of woe
Some voices shall be heard, and earth shall
Poets shall follow in the path I show, [listen;
And make it broader: the same brilliant sky
Which cheer the birds to song shall bid them glow,
And raise their notes as natural and high;
Tuneful shall be their numbers; they shall
Many of love, and some of liberty, [sing
But few shall soar upon that eagle's wing,
And look in the sun's face with eagle's gaze,
All free and fearless as the feather'd king,
But fly more near the earth; how many a phrase [prince
Sublime shall lavish'd be on some small
In all the prodigality of praise!
And language, eloquently false, evince
The harlotry of genius, which, like beauty,
Too oft forgets its own self-reverence,
And looks on prostitution as a duty.
He who once enters in a tyrant's hall ‡
As guest is slave, his thoughts become a booty,

* Alexander of Parma, Spinola, Pescara, Eugene of Savoy Montecucco.

† Columbus, Americus Vespucius, Sebastian Cabot.

‡ A verse from the Greek tragedians, with which Pompey took leave of Cornelia on entering the boat in which he was slain.

And the first day which sees the chains enthral
A captive sees his half of manhood gone*
The soul's emasculation saddens all
His spirit; thus the Bard too near the throne
Quails from his inspiration, bound to please,—
How servile is the task to please alone!
To smooth the verse to suit his sovereign's ease
And royal leisure, nor too much prolong
Aught save his eulogy, and find, and seize,
Or force, or forge fit argument of song!
Thus trammell'd, thus condemned to Flattery's trebles,
He toils through all, still trembling to be wrong:
For fear some noble thoughts, like heavenly rebels,
Should rise up in high treason to his brain.
He sings as the Athenian spoke, with pebbles
In's mouth, lest truth should stammer through his strain.
But out of the long file of sonneteers
There shall be some who will not sing in vain,
And he, their prince, shall rank among my peers,†
And love shall be his torment; but his grief
Shall make an immortality of tears,
And Italy shall hail him as the Chief
Of Poet-lovers, and his higher song
Of Freedom wreathe him with as green a leaf.
But in a farther age shall rise along
The banks of Po two greater still than he;
The world which smiled on him shall do them wrong
Till they are ashes, and repose with me.
The first will make an epoch of his lyre,
And fill the earth with feats of chivalry:
His fancy like a rainbow, and his fire,
Like that of Heaven, immortal, and his thought
Borne onward with a wing that cannot tire:
Pleasure shall, like a butterfly new caught,
Flutter her lovely pinions o'er his theme,
And Art itself seem into Nature wrought
By the transparency of his bright dream.—
The second, of a tenderer, sadder mood,
Shall pour his soul out o'er Jerusalem;
He, too, shall sing of arms, and Christian blood
Shed where Christ bled for man; and his high harp
Shall, by the willow over Jordan's flood,
Revive a song of Sion, and the sharp
Conflict, and final triumph of the brave
And pious, and the strife of hell to warp
Their hearts from their great purpose, until wave
Cross
The red-cross banners where the first red
Was crimson'd from his veins who died to save,
Shall be his sacred argument; the loss
Of years, of favor, freedom, even fame
Contested for a time, while the smooth gloss
Of courts would slide o'er his forgotten name,
And call captivity a kindness, meant
To shield him from insanity or shame,
Such shall be his meet guerdon! who was sent
To be Christ's Laureate—they reward him well!
Florence but dooms me death or banishment,
Ferrara him a pittance and a cell,
Harder to bear, and less deserved, for I
Had stung the factions which I strove to quell;
But this meek man, who with a lover's eye
Will look on earth and heaven, and who will deign
To embalm with his celestial flattery,
As poor a thing as e'er was spawn'd to reign,
What will *he* do to merit such a doom?
Perhaps he'll *love*,—and is not love in vain
Torture enough without a living tomb?
Yet it will be so—he and his compeer,
The Bard of Chivalry, will both consume
In penury and pain too many a year,
And, dying in despondency, bequeath
To the kind world, which scarce will yield a tear,
A heritage enriching all who breathe
With the wealth of a genuine poet's soul,
And to their country a redoubled wreath,
Unmatch'd by time; not Hell can unroll
Through her olympiads two such names, though one
Of her's be mighty,—and is this the whole
Of such men's destiny beneath the sun?
Must all the finer thoughts, the thrilling sense,
The electric blood with which their arteries run,
Their body's self-turn'd soul with the intense
Feeling of that which is, and fancy of
That which should be, to such a recompense
Conduct? shall their bright plumage on the rough be,
Storm be still scatter'd? Yes, and it must
For, form'd of far too penetrable stuff,
These birds of Paradise but long to flee
Back to their native mansion, soon they find
Earth's mist with their pure pinions not agree,
And die or are degraded; for the mind
Succumbs to long infection, and despair,
And vulture passions flying close behind,
Await the moment to assail and tear; stoop,
And when at length the winged wanderers
Then is the prey-bird's triumph, then they share swoop.
The spoil, o'erpower'd at length by one fell
Yet some have been untouch'd, who learn'd to bear, droop,
Some whom no power could ever force to
Who could resist themselves even, hardest care!
And task most hopeless; but some such have been,
And if my name amongst the number were,
That destiny austere, and yet serene,
Were prouder than more dazzling fame unbless'd. seen
The Alp's snow summit nearer heaven is
Than the volcano's fierce eruptive crest,
Whose splendor from the black abyss is flung, burning breast
While the scorch'd mountain, from whose

* The verse and sentiment are taken from Homer.

† Petrarch.

temporary torturing flame is wrung,
Shines for a night of terror, then repels
Its fire back to the hell from whence it sprung,
The hell which in its entrails ever dwells.

CANTO THE FOURTH.

MANY are poets who have never penn'd
Their inspiration, and perchance the best:
They felt, and loved, and died, but would not lend [press'd
their thoughts to meaner beings; they com-
The god within them, and rejoin'd the stars
Unlaurell'd upon earth, but far more bless'd
than those who are degraded by the jars
Of passion, and their frailties link'd to fame, [scars.
Conquerors of high renown, but full of
many are poets but without the name,
For what is poesy but to create
From overfeeling good or ill; and aim
at an external life beyond our fate,
And be the new Prometheus of new men,
Bestowing fire from heaven, and then, too late,
finding the pleasure given repaid with pain,
And vultures to the heart of the bestower,
Who, having lavish'd his high gift in vain,
dies chain'd to his lone rock by the sea-shore?
So be it: we can bear.—But thus all they
Whose intellect is an o'ermastering power
which still recoils from its encumbering clay
Or lightens it to spirit, whatsoe'er
The form which their creations may essay,
re bards; the kindled marble's bust may wear
More poesy upon its speaking brow [bear;
Than aught less than the Homeric page may
ne noble stroke with a whole life may glow,
Or deify the canvas till it shine
With beauty so surpassing all below,
hat they who kneel to idols so divine [there
Break no commandment, for high heaven is
Transfused, transfigurated: and the line
f poesy, which peoples but the air [flected,
With thought and beings of our thought re-
Can do no more: then let the artist share
he palm, he shares the peril, and dejected
Faints o'er the labor unapproved—Alas!
Despair and Genius are too oft connected.
ithin the ages which before me pass
Art shall resume and equal even the sway
Which with Apelles and old Phidias
he held in Hellas' unforgotten day.
Ye shall be taught by Ruin to revive
The Grecian forms at least from their decay,
nd Roman souls at last again shall live
In Roman works wrought by Italian hands,
And temples, loftier than the old temples, give [stands
ew wonders to the world; and while still
The austere Pantheon, into heaven shall soar
A dome, its image, while the base expands*
to a fane surpassing all before,
Such as all flesh shall flock to kneel in; ne'er
Such sight hath been unfolded by a door
As this, to which all nations shall repair
And lay their sins at this huge gate of heaven.
And the bold Architect unto whose care
The daring charge to raise it shall be given,
Whom all hearts shall acknowledge as their lord,
Whether into the marble chaos driven
His chisel bid the Hebrew, at whose word*
Israel left Egypt, stop the waves in stone,
Or hues of Hell be by his pencil pour'd
Over the damn'd before the judgment throne,†
Such as I saw them, such as all shall see,
Or fanes be built of grandeur yet unknown,
The stream of his great thoughts shall spring from me,‡ [realms
The Ghibelline, who traversed the three
Which form the empire of eternity.
Amidst the clash of swords, and clang of helms,
The age which I anticipate, no less
Shall be the Age of Beauty, and while
Calamity the nations with distress, [whelms
The genius of my country shall arise,
A Cedar towering o'er the Wilderness,
Lovely in all its branches to all eyes,
Fragrant as fair, and recognized afar,
Wafting its native incense through the skies.
Sovereigns shall pause amidst their sport of war, [gaze
Wean'd for an hour from blood, to turn and
On canvas or on stone; and they who mar
All beauty upon earth, compell'd to praise,
Shall feel the power of that which they destroy;
And Art's mistaken gratitude shall raise
To tyrants who but take her for a toy,
Emblems and monuments, and prostitute
Her charms to pontiffs proud,§ who but employ

* The Cupola of St. Peter's.

* The statue of Moses on the monument of Julius II.

SONETTO

Di Giovanni Battista Zappi.

Chi e costui, che in dura pietra scolto,
Siede gigante; e le piu illustre, e conte
Opre dell' arte avvanza, e ha vive, e pronte
Le labbia si, che le parole ascolto?
Quest e Mose; ben me 'l diceva il folto
Onor del mento, e 'l doppio raggio in fronte,
Quest' e Mose, quando scendea del monte,
E gran parte del Nume avea nel volto.
Tal era allor, che le sonanti, e vaste
Acque ei sospese a se d' intorno, e tale
Quando il mar chiuse, e ne fe tomba altrui.
E voi sue turbe un rio vitello alzaste!
Alzata aveste imago a questa eguale!
Ch' era men fallo l' adorar costui.

† The Last Judgment, in the Sistine Chapel.

‡ I have read somewhere (if I do not err, for I cannot recollect where), that Dante was so great a favorite of Michael Angelo's, that he had designed the whole of the Divina Commedia: but that the volume containing these studies was lost by sea.

§ See the treatment of Michael Angelo by Julius II., and his neglect by Leo X.

The man of genius as the meanest brute
To bear a burthen, and to serve a need,
To sell his labors, and his soul to boot.
Who toils for nations may be poor indeed,
But free; who sweats for monarchs is no more [and fee'd,
Than the gilt chamberlain, who, clothed
Stands sleek and slavish, bowing at his door.
Oh, Power that rulest and inspirest! how
Is it that they on earth, whose earthly power
Is likest thine in heaven in outward show,
Least like to thee in attributes divine,
Tread on the universal necks that bow,
And then assure us that their rights are thine!
And how is it that they, the sons of fame,
Whose inspiration seems to them to shine
From high, they whom the nations oftest name
Must pass their days in penury or pain,
Or step to grandeur through the paths of shame,
And wear a deeper brand and gaudier chain,
Or if their destiny be born aloof
From lowliness, or tempted thence in vain,
In their own souls sustain a harder proof,
The inner war of passions deep and fierce?
Florence! when thy harsh sentence razed my roof,
I loved thee, but the vengeance of my verse,
The hate of injuries which every year
Makes greater, and accumulates my curse,
Shall live, outliving all thou holdest dear,
Thy pride, thy wealth, thy freedom, and even *that*,
The most infernal of all evils here,
The sway of petty tyrants in a state;
For such sway is not limited to kings,
And demagogues yield to them but in date,
As swept off sooner; in all deadly things,
Which make men hate themselves, and one another, [springs
In discord, cowardice, cruelty, all that
From Death the Sin-born's incest with his mother,
In rank oppression in its rudest shape,
The faction Chief is but the Sultan's brother,
And the worst despot's far less human ape:
Florence! when this lone spirit, which so long
Yearn'd, as the captive toiling at escape,
To fly back to thee in despite of wrong,
An exile, saddest of all prisoners, [strong,
Who has the whole world for a dungeon
Seas, mountains, and the horizon's verge for bars, [earth,
Which shut him from the sole small spot of
Where—whatsoe'er his fate—he still were hers, [birth—
His country's, and might die where he had
Florence! when this lone spirit shall return
To kindred spirits, thou wilt feel my worth,
And seek to honor with an empty urn
The ashes thou shalt ne'er obtain—Alas!
"What have I done to thee, my people?"*
Stern
Are all thy dealings, but in this they pass
The limits of man's common malice, for
All that a citizen could be, I was;
Raised by thy will, all thine in peace or war,
And for this thou hast warr'd with me—'Tis
I may not o'erleap the eternal bar [done:
Built up between us, and will die alone,
Beholding with the dark eye of a seer
The evil days to gifted souls foreshown,
Foretelling them to those who will not hear.
As in the old time, till the hour be come
When truth shall strike their eyes through many a tear,
And make them own the Prophet in his tomb.

*"E scrisse piu volte non solamonte a particolari cittadini del reggimento ma ancora al popolo, e intra l'altre una Epistola assai lunga che comincia: 'Populo mi, quid feci tibi?'"—Vita da Dante scritta da Lionardo Aretino.

THE MORGANTE MAGGIORE
DI MESSER LUIGI PULCI.
1822.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Morgante Maggiore, of the first canto of which this translation is offered, divides with the Orlando Innamorato the honor of having formed and suggested the style and story of Ariosto. The great defects of Boiardo were his treating too seriously the narratives of chivalry, and his harsh style. Ariosto, in his continuation, by a judicious mixture of the gaiety of Pulci, has avoided the one; and Berni, in his reformation of Boiardo's poem, has corrected the other. Pulci may be considered as the precursor and model of Berni altogether, as he has partly been to Ariosto, however inferior to both his copyists. He is no less the founder of a new style of poetry very lately sprung up in England. I allude to that of the ingenious Whistlecraft. The serious poems on Roncesvalles in the same language, and more particularly the excellent one of Mr. Merivale, are to be traced to the same source. It has never yet been decided entirely whether Pulci's intention was or was not to deride the religion which is one of his favorite topics. It appears to me, that such an intention would have been no less hazardous to the poet than to the priest, particularly in that age and country; and the permission to publish the poem, and its reception among the classics of Italy, prove that it neither was nor is so interpreted. That he intended to ridicule the monastic life, and suffered his imagination to play with the simple dullness of his converted giant, seems evident enough; but surely it were as unjust to accuse him of irreligion on this account, as to denounce Fielding for his Parson Adams, Barnabas, Thwackum, Supple, and the Ordinary in Jonathan Wild,—or Scott, for the exquisite use of his Covenanters in the "Tales of My Landlord."

In the following translation I have used the liberty of the original with the proper names: as Pulci uses Gan, Ganellon, or Ganellone; Carlo, Carlomagno, or Carlomano; Rondel, or Rondello, etc., as it suits his convenience; so has the translator. In other respects the version is faithful to the best of the translator's ability in combining his interpretation of the one language with the not very easy task of reducing it to the same versification in the other. The reader, on comparing it with the original, is requested to remember that the antiquated language of Pulci, however pure, is not easy to the generality of Italians themselves, from its great mixture of

Tuscan proverbs; and he may therefore be more indulgent to the present attempt. How far the translator has succeeded, and whether or no he shall continue the work, are questions which the public will decide. He was induced to make the experiment partly by his love for, and partial intercourse with, the Italian language, of which it is so easy to acquire a slight knowledge, and with which it is so nearly impossible for a foreigner to become accurately conversant. The Italian language is like a capricious beauty, who accords her smiles to all, her favors to few, and sometimes least to those who have courted her longest. The translator wished also to present in an English dress a part at least of a poem never yet rendered into a northern language; at the same time that it has been the original of some of the most celebrated productions on this side of the Alps, as well as of those recent experiments in poetry in England which have been already mentioned.

CANTO THE FIRST.

I.

In the beginning was the Word next God:
God was the Word, the Word no less was he:
This was in the beginning, to my mode [be:
Of thinking, and without Him nought could
Therefore, just Lord! from out thy high abode,
Benign and pious, bid an angel flee,
One only, to be my companion, who [through.
Shall help my famous, worthy, old song

II.

And thou, O Virgin! daughter, mother, bride
Of the same Lord, who gave to you each key
Of heaven, and hell, and everything beside,
The day thy Gabriel said "All hail!" to thee,
Since to thy servants pity's ne'er denied,
With flowing rhymes, a pleasant style and
Be to my verses then benignly kind, [free,
And to the end illuminate my mind.

III.

'Twas in the season when sad Philomel
Weeps with her sister, who remembers and
Deplores the ancient woes which both befell,
And makes the nymphs enamor'd, to the hand
Of Phæton by Phœbus loved so well
His car (but temper'd by his sire's command)
Was given, and on the horizon's verge just now
Appear'd, so that Tithonus scratch'd his brow:

IV.

When I prepared my bark first to obey,
As it should still obey the helm, my mind,
And carry prose or rhyme, and this my lay
Of Charles the Emperor, whom you will find
By several pens already praised; but they
Who to diffuse his glory were inclined,
For all that I can see in prose or verse, [worse.
Have understood Charles badly, and wrote

V.

Leonardo Aretino said already,
That if, like Pepin, Charles had had a writer
Of genius quick, and diligently steady,
No hero would in history look brighter;
He in the cabinet being always ready,
And in the field a most victorious fighter,
Who for the Church and Christian faith had wrought,
Certes, far more than yet is said or thought.

VI.

You still may see at Saint Liberatore,
The abbey, no great way from Manopell,
Erected in the Abruzzi to his glory,
Because of the great battle in which fell
A pagan king, according to the story,
And felon people whom Charles sent to hell:
And there are bones so many, and so many,
Near them Giusaffa's would seem few, if any.

VII.

But the world, blind and ignorant, don't prize
His virtues as I wish to see them; thou,
Florence, by his great bounty don't arise,
And hast, and may have, if thou wilt allow,
All proper customs and true courtesies: [now,
Whate'er thou hast acquired from then till
With knightly courage, treasure or the lance,
Is sprung from out the noble blood of France.

VIII.

Twelve Paladins had Charles in court, of whom
The wisest and most famous was Orlando;
Him traitor Gan conducted to the tomb
In Roncesvalles, as the villain plann'd too.
While the horn rang so loud, and knell'd the doom [can do:
Of their sad rout, though he did all knight
And Dante in his comedy hath given
To him a happy seat with Charles in heaven.

IX.

'Twas Christmas-day; in Paris all his court
Charles held: the chief, I say, Orlando was,
The Dane; Astolfo there too did resort,
Also Ansuigi, the gay time to pass
In festival and in triumphant sport, [cause;
The much-renown'd St. Dennis being the
Angiolin of Bayonne, and Oliver,
And gentle Belinghieri too came there:

X.

Avolio, and Arino, and Othone
Of Normandy, and Richard Paladin,
Wise Hamo, and the ancient Salamone,
Walter of Lion's Mount and Baldovin,
Who was the son of the sad Ganellone,
Were there, exciting too much gladness in
The son of Pepin:—when his knights came hither,
He groan'd with joy to see them all together.

XI.

But watchful Fortune, lurking, takes good heed
Ever some bar 'gainst our intents to bring.
While Charles reposed him thus, in word and deed, [thing;
Orlando ruled court, Charles, and every-
Curst Gan, with envy bursting, had such need

To vent his spite, that thus with Charles the
One day he openly began to say, [king
"Orlando must we always then obey?

XII.

"A thousand times I've been about to say,
Orlando too presumptuously goes on;
Here are we, counts, kings, dukes, to own thy
Hamo, and Otho, Ogier, Solomon, [sway,
Each have to honor thee and to obey;
But he has too much credit near the throne,
Which we won't suffer, but are quite decided
By such a boy to be no longer guided.

XIII.

"And even at Aspramont thou didst begin
To let him know he was a gallant knight,
And by the fount did much the day to win;
But I know *who* that day had won the fight
If it had not for good Gherardo been;
The victory was Almonte's else; his sight
He kept upon the standard, and the laurels
In fact and fairness are his earning, Charles.

XIV.

"If thou rememberest being in Gascony,
When there advanced the nations out of Spain,
The Christian cause had suffer'd shamefully,
Had not his valor driven them back again.
Best speak the truth when there's a reason why:
Know then, O Emperor! that all complain:
As for myself, I shall repass the mounts
O'er which I cross'd with two and sixty Counts.

XV.

"Tis fit my grandeur should dispense relief,
So that each here may have his proper part,
For the whole court is more or less in grief:
Perhaps thou deem'st this lad a Mars in heart?"
Orlando one day heard this speech in brief,
As by himself it chanced he sat apart:
Displeased he was with Gan because he said it,
But much more still that Charles should give him credit.

XVI.

And with the sword he would have murder'd Gan,
But Oliver thrust in between the pair,
And from his hand extracted Durlindan,
And thus at length they separated were.
Orlando, angry too with Carloman,
Wanted but little to have slain him there;
Then forth alone from Paris went the chief,
And burst and madden'd with disdain and grief.

XVII.

From Ermellina, consort of the Dane,
He took Cortana, and then took Rondell,
And on towards Brara prick'd him o'er the plain;
And when she saw him coming, Aldabelle
Stretch'd forth her arms to clasp her lord again:
Orlando, in whose brain all was not well,
As "Welcome, my Orlando, home," she said,
Raised up his sword to smite her on the head,

XVIII.

Like him a fury counsels; his revenge
On Gan in that rash act he seem'd to take,
Which Aldabella thought extremely strange;
But soon Orlando found himself awake;
And his spouse took his bridle on this change,
And he dismounted from his horse, and spake
Of everything which pass'd without demur,
And then reposed himself some days with her.

XIX.

Then full of wrath departed from the place,
And far as pagan countries roam'd astray,
And while he rode, yet still at every pace
The traitor Gan remember'd by the way;
And wandering on in error a long space,
An abbey which in a lone desert lay,
'Midst glens obscure, and distant lands, he found, [bound.
Which form'd the Christian's and the pagan's

XX.

The abbot was call'd Clermont, and by blood
Descended from Anglante: under cover
Of a great mountain's brow the abbey stood,
But certain savage giants look'd him over;
One Passamont was foremost of the brood,
And Alabaster and Morgante hover
Second and third, with certain slings, and
In daily jeopardy the place below. [throw

XXI.

The monks could pass the convent gate no more,
Nor leave their cells for water or for wood;
Orlando knock'd, but none would ope, before
Unto the prior it at length seem'd good;
Enter'd, he said that he was taught to adore
Him who was born of Mary's holiest blood,
And was baptized a Christian; and then show'd
How to the abbey he had found his road.

XXII.

Said the abbot, "You are welcome; what is mine
We give you freely, since that you believe
With us in Mary Mother's Son divine;
And that you may not, cavalier, conceive
The cause of our delay to let you in
To be rusticity, you shall receive
The reason why our gate was barr'd to you:
Thus those who in suspicion live must do.

XXIII.

"When hither to inhabit first we came
These mountains, albeit that they are obscure,
As you perceive, yet without fear or blame

They seem'd to promise an asylum sure:
From savage brutes alone, too fierce to tame,
'Twas fit our quiet dwelling to secure;
But now, if here we'd stay, we needs must guard
Against domestic beasts with watch and ward.

XXIV.

"These make us stand, in fact, upon the watch; [rough:
For late there have appear'd three giants
What nation or what kingdom bore the batch
I know not, but they are all of savage stuff;
When force and malice with some genius match, [enough:
You know they can do all—*we* are not
And these so much our orisons derange,
I know not what to do, till matters change.

XXV.

"Our ancient fathers, living the desert in,
For just and holy works were duly fed;
Think not they lived on locusts sole, 'tis certain [instead;
That manna was rained down from heaven
But here 'tis fit we keep on the alert in
Our bounds, or taste the stones shower'd down for bread,
From off yon mountain daily raining faster,
And flung by Passamont and Alabaster.

XXVI.

"The third, Morgante, 's savagest by far: he
Plucks up pines, beeches, poplar trees and oaks,
And flings them, our community to bury;
And all that I can do but more provokes.
While thus they parley in the cemetery,
A stone from one of their gigantic strokes,
Which nearly crush'd Rondell, came tumbling over,
So that he took a long leap under cover.

XXVII.

"For God's sake, cavalier, come in with speed;
The manna's falling now," the abbot cried.
"This fellow does not wish my horse should feed,
Dear abbot," Roland unto him replied.
"Of restiveness he'd cure him had he need;
That stone seems with good will and aim applied."
The holy father said, "I don't deceive;
They'll one day fling the mountain, I believe."

XXVIII.

Orlando bade them take care of Rondello,
And also make a breakfast of his own:
"Abbot," he said, "I want to find that fellow
Who flung at my good horse yon corner-stone." [shallow;
Said the abbot, "Let not my advice seem
As to a brother dear I speak alone;
I would dissuade you, baron, from this strife,
As knowing sure that you will lose your life.

XXIX.

"That Passamont has in his hand three darts— [you must:
Such slings, clubs, ballast-stones, that yield
You know that giants have much stouter hearts
Than us, with reason, in proportion just:
If go you will, guard well against their arts,
For these are very barbarous and robust."
Orlando answer'd, "This I'll see, be sure,
And walk the wild on foot to be secure."

XXX.

The abbot sign'd the great cross on his front,
"Then go you with God's benison and mine":
Orlando, after he had scaled the mount,
As the abbot had directed, kept the line
Right to the usual haunt of Passamont;
Who, seeing him alone in this design,
Survey'd him fore and aft with eyes observant,
Then ask'd him, "If he wish'd to stay as servant?"

XXXI.

And promised him an office of great ease.
But said Orlando, "Saracen insane!
I come to kill you, if it shall so please
God, not to serve as footboy in your train;
You with his monks so oft have broke the peace—
Vile dog! 'tis past his patience to sustain."
The giant ran to fetch his arms, quite furious,
When he received an answer so injurious.

XXXII.

And being return'd to where Orlando stood,
Who had not moved him from the spot,
and swinging [rude,
The cord, he hurl'd a stone with strength so
As show'd a sample of his skill in slinging;
It roll'd on Count Orlando's helmet good
And head, and set both head and helmet ringing,
So that he swoon'd with pain as if he died,
But more than dead, he seem'd so stupefied.

XXXIII.

Then Passamont, who thought him slain outright,
Said, "I will go, and while he lies along,
Disarm me: why such craven did I fight?"
But Christ his servants ne'er abandons long,
Especially Orlando, such a knight,
As to desert would almost be a wrong.
While the giant goes to put off his defences,
Orlando has recall'd his force and senses:

XXXIV.

And loud he shouted, "Giant, where dost go? [outlaid:
Thou thought'st me doubtless for the bier
To the right about—without wings thou'rt too slow
To fly my vengeance—currish renegade!
'Twas but by treachery thou laid'st me low,"

The giant his astonishment betray'd,
And turn'd about, and stopp'd his journey on,
And then he stoop'd to pick up a great stone.

XXXV.

Orlando had Cortana bare in hand;
To split the head in twain was what he schemed:
Cortana clave the skull like a true brand,
And pagan Passamont died unredeem'd,
Yet harsh and haughty, as he lay he bann'd,
And most devoutly Macon still blasphem'd;
But while his crude, rude blasphemies he heard,
Orlando thank'd the Father and the Word,—

XXXVI.

Saying, "What grace to me thou'st this day given!
And I to thee, O Lord! am ever bound.
I know my life was saved by thee from heaven,
Since by the giant I was fairly down'd.
All things by thee are measured just and even,
Our power without thine aid would nought be found,
I pray thee take heed of me, till I can
At least return once more to Carloman."

XXXVII.

And having said this much he went his way
And Alabaster he found out below,
Doing the very best that in him lay
To root from out a bank a rock or two.
Orlando, when he reach'd him, loud 'gan say
"How think'st thou, glutton, such a stone to throw?"
When Alabaster heard his deep voice ring,
He suddenly betook him to his sling,

XXXVIII.

And hurl'd a fragment of a size so large,
That if it had in fact fulfill'd its mission,
And Roland not avail'd him of his targe,
There would have been no need of a physician.
Orlando set himself in turn to charge,
And in his bulky bosom made incision
With all his sword. The lout fell; but o'erthrown, he
However by no means forgot Macone.

XXXIX.

Morgante had a palace in his mode, [earth,
Composed of branches, logs of wood, and
And stretch'd himself at ease in this abode,
And shut himself at night within his berth.
Orlando knock'd, and knock'd again, to goad
The giant from his sleep, and he came forth,
The door to open, like a crazy thing,
For a rough dream had shook him slumbering.

XL.

He thought that a fierce serpent had attack'd
And Mahomet he call'd; but Mahomet [him;
Is nothing worth, and not an instant back'd
But praying blessed Jesu, he was set [him;
At liberty from all the fears that rack'd him;
And to the gate he came with great regret—
"Who knocks here?" grumbling all the while said he.
"That," said Orlando, "you will quickly see:

XLI.

"I come to preach to you, as to your brothers,
Sent by the miserable monks—repentance;
For Providence divine, in you and others,
Condemns the evil done my new acquaintance. [another's:
'Tis writ on high—your wrong must pay
From heaven itself is issued out this sentence.
Know then, that colder now than a pilaster
I left your Passamont and Alabaster."

XLII.

Morgante said, "Oh, gentle cavalier!
Now by thy God say me no villainy;
The favor of your name I fain would hear,
And if a Christian, speak for courtesy."
Replied Orlando, "So much to your ear
I by my faith disclose contentedly;
Christ I adore, who is the genuine Lord,
And, if you please, by you may be adored."

XLIII.

The Saracen rejoin'd in humble tone,
"I have had an extraordinary vision;
A savage serpent fell on me alone,
And Macon would not pity my condition;
Hence to thy God, who for ye did atone
Upon the cross, preferr'd I my petition;
His timely succor set me safe and free,
And I a Christian am disposed to be."

XLIV.

Orlando answer'd, "Baron just and pious,
If this good wish your heart can really move
To the true God, you will not then deny us
Eternal honor, you will go above,
And, if you please, as friends, we will ally us,
And I will love you with a perfect love.
Your idols are vain liars, full of fraud:
The only true God is the Christian's God.

XLV.

"The Lord descended to the virgin breast
Of Mary Mother, sinless and divine;
If you acknowledge the Redeemer blest,
Without whom neither sun nor star can shine,
Abjure bad Macon's false and felon test,
Your renegado god, and worship mine,—
Baptize yourself with zeal, since you repent."
To which Morgante answer'd, "I am content."

XLVI.

And then Orlando to embrace him flew,
And made much of his convert, as he cried,
"To the abbey I will gladly marshal you."
To whom Morgante, "Let us go," replied;
"I to the friars have for peace to sue."[pride,
Which thing Orlando heard with inward

Saying, "My brother, so devout and good,
Ask the abbot pardon, as I wish you would:

XLVII.

"Since God has granted your illumination,
Accepting you in mercy for his own,
Humility should be your first oblation."
Morgante said, "For goodness sake, make known— [station;
Since that your God is to be mine—your
And let your name in verity be shown;
Then will I everything at your command do."
On which the other said he was Orlando.

XLVIII.

"Then," quoth the giant, "blessed be Jesu
A thousand times with gratitude and praise!
Oft, perfect baron! have I heard of you
Through all the different periods of my days;
And, as I said, to be your vassal too.
I wish, for your great gallantry always."
Thus reasoning, they continued much to say,
And onwards to the abbey went their way.

XLIX.

And by the way about the giants dead
Orlando with Morgante reason'd: "Be,
For their decease, I pray you, comforted;
And, since it is God's pleasure, pardon me;
A thousand wrongs unto the monks they bred,
And our true Scripture soundeth openly,
Good is rewarded and chastised the ill,
Which the Lord never faileth to fulfil:

L.

"Because his love of justice unto all
Is such, he wills his judgment should devour
All who have sin, however great or small;
But good he well remembers to restore.
Nor without justice holy could we call
Him, whom I now require you to adore.
All men must make his will their wishes sway,
And quickly and spontaneously obey.

LI.

"And here our doctors are of one accord,
Coming on this point to the same conclusion— [the Lord,
That in their thoughts who praise in heaven
If pity e'er was guilty of intrusion
For their unfortunate relations stored
In hell below, and damn'd in great confusion,
Their happiness would be reduced to nought,
And thus unjust the Almighty's self be thought.

LII.

"But they in Christ have firmest hope, and all
Which seems to him, to them too must appear
Well done; nor could it otherwise befall:
He never can in any purpose err.
If sire or mother suffer endless thrall,
They don't disturb themselves for him or her:
What pleases God to them must joy inspire:—
Such is the observance of the eternal choir."

LIII.

"A word unto the wise," Morgante said,
"Is wont to be enough, and you shall see
How much I grieve about my brethren dead;
And if the will of God seem good to me,
Just, as you tell me, 'tis in heaven obey'd,—
Ashes to ashes,—merry let us be!
I will cut off the hands from both their trunks,
And carry them unto the holy monks.

LIV.

"So that all persons may be sure and certain
That they are dead and have no further fear
To wander solitary this desert in,
And that they may perceive my spirit clear
By the Lord's grace, who hath withdrawn the curtain [pear."
Of darkness, making his bright realm ap-
He cut his brethren's hands off at these words,
And left them to the savage beasts and birds.

LV.

Then to the abbey they went on together,
Where waited them the abbot in great doubt.
The monks, who knew not yet the fact, ran thither
To their superior, all in a breathless rout,
Saying with tremor, "Please to tell us whether
You wish to have this person in or out?"
The abbot, looking through upon the giant,
Too greatly fear'd, at first, to be compliant.

LVI.

Orlando, seeing him thus agitated,
Said quickly, "Abbot, be thou of good cheer;
He Christ believes, as Christian must be rated,
And hath renounced his Macon false"; which here
Morgante with the hands corroborated,
A proof of both the giants' fate quite clear:
Thence, with due thanks, the abbot God adored,
Saying, "Thou hast contented me, oh Lord!"

LVII.

He gazed; Morgante's height he calculated,
And more than once contemplated his size;
And then he said, "O giant celebrated!"
Know, that no more my wonder will arise,
How you could tear and fling the trees you late did, [eyes.
When I behold your form with my own
You now a true and perfect friend will show
Yourself to Christ, as once you were a foe.

LVIII.

"And one of our apostles, Saul once named,
Long persecuted sore the faith of Christ,
Till, one day, by the Spirit being inflamed,
'Why dost thou persecute me thus?' said Christ;
And then from his offence he was reclaim'd,
And went forever after preaching Christ,

And of the faith became a trump, whose sounding [ing.
O'er the whole earth is echoing and rebound-

LIX.

"So, my Morgante, you may do likewise:
He who repents—thus writes the Evangel-
Occasions more rejoicing in the skies [ist—
Than ninety-nine of the celestial list.
You may be sure, should each desire arise
With just zeal for the Lord, that you'll exist
Among the happy saints forevermore;
But you were lost and damn'd to hell before!"

LX.

And thus great honor to Morgante paid
The abbot: many days they did repose.
One day, as with Orlando they both stray'd,
And saunter'd here and there, where'er they chose,
The abbot show'd a chamber, where array'd
Much armor was, and hung up certain bows;
And one of these Morgante for a whim
Girt on, though useless, he believed, to him.

LXI.

There being a want of water in the place,
Orlando, like a worthy brother, said,
"Morgante, I could wish you in this case
To go for water." "You shall be obey'd
In all commands," was the reply, "straightways."
Upon his shoulder a great tub he laid,
And went out on his way unto a fountain,
Where he was wont to drink below the mountain.

LXII.

Arrived there, a prodigious noise he hears,
Which suddenly along the forest spread;
Whereat from out his quiver he prepares
An arrow for his bow, and lifts his head;
And lo! a monstrous herd of swine appears,
And onward rushes with tempestuous tread,
And to the fountain's brink precisely pours;
So that the giant's join'd by all the boars.

LXIII.

Morgante at a venture shot an arrow,
Which pierced a pig precisely in the ear,
And pass'd unto the other side quite thorough;
So that the boar, defunct, lay tripp'd up near.
Another, to revenge his fellow farrow,
Against the giant rush'd in fierce career,
And reach'd the passage with so swift a foot,
Morgante was not now in time to shoot.

LXIV.

Perceiving that the pig was on him close,
He gave him such a punch upon the head,*
As floor'd him so that he no more arose,
Smashing the very bone; and he fell dead
Next to the other. Having seen such blows,
The other pigs along the valley fled;
Morgante on his neck the bucket took,
Full from the spring, which neither swerved nor shook.

LXV.

The tun was on one shoulder, and there were
The hogs on t'other, and he brush'd apace
On to the abbey, though by no means near,
Nor spilt one drop of water in his race.
Orlando, seeing him so soon appear [vase,
With the dead boars, and with that brimful
Marvell'd to see his strength so very great;
So did the abbot, and set wide the gate.

LXVI.

The monks, who saw the water fresh and good, [pork;—
Rejoiced, but much more to perceive the
All animals are glad at sight of food:
They lay their breviaries to sleep, and work
With greedy pleasure, and in such a mood,
That the flesh needs no salt beneath their fork.
Of rankness and of rot there is no fear,
For all the fasts are now left in arrear.

LXVII.

As though they wish'd to burst at once, they ate; [been
And gorged so that, as if the bones had
In water, sorely grieved the dog and cat,
Perceiving that they all were pick'd too clean.
The abbot, who to all did honor great,
A few days after this convivial scene,
Gave to Morgante a fine horse, well train'd,
Which he long time had for himself maintain'd.

LXVIII.

The horse Morgante to a meadow led,
To gallop, and to put him to the proof,
Thinking that he a back of iron had,
Or to skim eggs unbroke was light enough;
But the horse, sinking with the pain, fell dead,
And burst, while cold on earth lay head and hoof.
Morgante said, "Get up, thou sulky cur!"
And still continued pricking with the spur.

LXIX.

But finally he thought fit to dismount,
And said, "I am as light as any feather,
And he has burst;—to this what say you, Count?" [rather
Orlando answer'd, "Like a ship's mast
You seem to me, and with the truck for front:—
Let him go! Fortune wills that we together
Should march, but you on foot, Morgante, still."
To which the giant answer'd, "So I will.

* "Gli dette in su la testa un gran punzone." It is strange that Pulci should have literally anticipated the technical terms of my old friend and master, Jackson, and the art which he has carried to its highest pitch. "A punch on the head," or, "a punch in the head,"—"un punzone in su la testa,"—is the exact and frequent phrase of our best pugilists, who little dream that they are talking the purest Tuscan.

LXX.

"When there shall be occasion, you will see
How I approve my courage in the fight."
Orlando said, "I really think you'll be,
If it should prove God's will, a goodly knight;
Nor will you napping there discover me.
But never mind your horse, though out of sight
'Twere best to carry him into some wood,
If but the means or way I understood."

LXXI.

The giant said, "Then carry him I will,
Since that to carry me he was so slack—
To render, as the gods do, good for ill;
But lend a hand to place him on my back."
Orlando answer'd, "If my counsel still
May weigh, Morgante, do not undertake
To lift or carry this dead courser, who,
As you have done to him, will do to you.

LXXII.

"Take care he don't revenge himself, though
As Nessus did of old beyond all cure. [dead,
I don't know if the fact you've heard or read;
But he will make you burst, you may be sure."
"But help him on my back," Morgante said,
"And you shall see what weight I can endure.
In place, my gentle Roland, of this palfrey,
With all the bells, I'd carry yonder belfry."

LXXIII.

The abbot said, "The steeple may do well,
But, for the bells, you've broken them, I wot."
Morgante answer'd, "Let them pay in hell
The penalty who lie dead in yon grot";
And hoisting up the horse from where he fell,
He said, "Now look if I the gout have got,
Orlando, in the legs—or if I have force";—
And then he made two gambols with the horse.

LXXIV.

Morgante was like any mountain framed,
So if he did this 'tis no prodigy;
But secretly himself Orlando blamed,
Because he was one of his family;
And fearing that he might be hurt or maim'd,
Once more he bade him lay his burden by:
"Put down nor bear him further the desert in."
Morgante said, "I'll carry him for certain."

LXXV.

He did; and stow'd him in some nook away,
And to the abbey they return'd with speed.
Orlando said, "Why longer do we stay?
Morgante, here is nought to do indeed."
The abbot by the hand he took one day,
And said, with great respect, he had agreed
To leave his reverence; but for this decision
He wish'd to have his pardon and permission.

LXXVI.

The honors they continued to receive
Perhaps exceeded what his merits claim'd:
He said, "I mean, and quickly, to retrieve
The lost days of time past, which may be blamed; [leave,
Some days ago I should have ask'd your
Kind father, but I really was ashamed,
And know not how to show my sentiment
So much I see you with our stay content.

LXXVII.

"But in my heart I bear through every clime
The abbot, abbey, and this solitude—
So much I love you in so short a time: [good
For me, from heaven reward you with all
The God so true, the eternal Lord sublime!
Whose kingdom at the last hath open stood.
Meantime we stand expectant of your blessing, [ing."
And recommend us to your prayers with press-

LXXVIII.

Now when the abbot Count Orlando heard,
His heart grew soft with inner tenderness,
Such fervor in his bosom bred each word;
And, "Cavalier," he said, "If I have less
Courteous and kind to your great worth appear'd,
Than fits me for such gentle blood to express,
I know I have done too little in this case;
But blame our ignorance and this poor place.

LXXIX.

"We can indeed but honor you with masses,
And sermons, thanksgivings, and pater-nos-
Hot suppers, dinners (fitting other places [ters,
In verity much rather than the cloisters);
But such a love for you my heart embraces,
For thousand virtues which your bosom fos-
That whereso'er you go I too shall be, [ters,
And, on the other part, you rest with me.

LXXX.

"This may involve a seeming contradiction;
But you I know are sage, and feel, and taste,
And understand my speech with full conviction,
For your just pious deeds may you be graced
With the Lord's great reward and benediction,
By whom you were directed to this waste:
To his high mercy is our freedom due,
For which we render thanks to him and you.

LXXXI.

"You saved at once our life and soul: such fear
The giants caused us, that the way was lost
By which we could pursue a fit career
In search of Jesus and the saintly host;
And your departure breeds such sorrow here,
That comfortless we all are to our cost;
But months and years you would not stay in sloth,
Nor are you form'd to wear our sober cloth;

LXXXII.

"But to bear arms, and wield the lance; indeed,
With thee as much is done as with this cowl;
In proof of which the Scriptures you may read
This giant up to heaven may bear his soul
By your compassion: now in peace proceed.
Your state and name I seek not to unroll;
But, if I'm ask'd, this answer shall be given,
That here an angel was sent down from heaven.

LXXXIII.

"If you want armor or aught else, go in,
Look o'er the wardrobe, and take what you choose,
And cover with it o'er this giant's skin."
Orlando answer'd, "If there should lie loose
Some armor, ere our journey we begin, [use,
Which might be turn'd to my companion's
The gift would be acceptable to me."
The abbot said to him, "Come in and see."

LXXXIV.

And in a certain closet, where the wall
Was cover'd with old armor like a crust,
The abbot said to them, "I give you all."
Morgante rummaged piecemeal from the dust [small,
The whole, which, save one cuirass, was too
And that too had the mail inlaid with rust.
They wonder'd how it fitted him exactly,
Which ne'er has suited others so compactly.

LXXXV.

'Twas an immeasurable giant's, who
By the great Milo of Agrante fell
Before the abbey many years ago.
The story on the wall was figured well;
In the last moment of the abbey's foe,
Who long had waged a war implacable:
Precisely as the war occurr'd they drew him,
And there was Milo as he overthrew him.

LXXXVI.

Seeing this history, Count Orlando said
In his heart, "O God, who in the sky
Know'st all things! how was Milo hither led?
Who caused the giant in this place to die?"
And certain letters, weeping, then he read,
So that he could not keep his visage dry,—
As I will tell in the ensuing story.
From evil keep you the high King of glory!

FRANCESCA OF RIMINI.*

WRITTEN 1820. PUBLISHED 1830.

FROM THE INFERNO OF DANTE.

CANTO THE FIFTH.

"THE land where I was born sits by the seas,†
Upon that shore to which the Po descends,
With all his followers, in search of peace.
Love, which the gentle heart soon apprehends,
Seized him for the fair person which was ta'en [offends.
From me, and me even yet the mode
Love, who to none beloved to love again
Remits, seized me with wish to please, so strong,
That, as thou seest, yet, yet it doth remain.
Love to one death conducted us along,
But Caïnà‡ waits for him our life who ended". [tongue.—
These were the accents utter'd by her
Since I first listen'd to these souls offended,
I bow'd my visage, and so kept it till—
"What think'st thou?" said the bard; when I unbended,
And recommenced: "Alas! unto such ill
How many sweet thoughts, what strong ecstacies,
Led these their evil fortune to fulfil!"
And then I turn'd unto their side my eyes,
And said "Francesca, thy sad destinies
Have made me sorrow till the tears arise.
But tell me, in the season of sweet sighs,
By what and how thy love to passion rose,
So as his dim desires to recognize?"
Then she to me: "The greatest of all woes
Is to remind us of our happy days
In misery, and that thy teacher knows.
But if to learn our passion's first root preys
Upon thy spirit with such sympathy,
I will do even as he who weeps and says.
We read one day for pastime, seated nigh,
Of Lancilot, how love enchain'd him too.
We were alone, quite unsuspiciously.
But oft our eyes met, and our cheeks in hue
All o'er discolor'd by that reading were;
But one point only wholly us o'erthrew;
When we read the long-sigh'd-for smile of her,
To be thus kiss'd by such devoted lover,
He who from me can be divided ne'er
Kiss'd my mouth, trembling in the act all over:
Accursed was the book and he who wrote!
That day no further leaf we did uncover."—
While thus one spirit told us of their lot,
The other wept, so that with pity's thralls
I swoon'd, as if by death I had been smote,
And fell down even as a dead body falls.

* Francesca, daughter of Guido, Lord of Ravenna, was given by her father in marriage to Lanciotto, Lord of Rimini, a man hideously deformed. Afraid of disgusting his bride, Lanciotto resolved to be married by proxy; and sent as his representative his brother Paolo, who was the handsomest and most accomplished cavalier in Italy. He engaged the bride's affections, and they were both put to death, afterwards, by the enraged husband. The father of the unhappy lady was the friend and protector of Dante.

† Ravenna.

‡ The place where the souls of fratricides suffer.

DRAMAS.

MANFRED:

A DRAMATIC POEM.

1817.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Manfred.	Witch of the Alps.
Chamois Hunter.	Arimanes.
Abbot of St. Maurice.	Nemesis.
Manuel.	The Destinies.
Herman.	Spirits, etc.

The scene of the Drama is amongst the Higher Alps—partly in the Castle of Manfred, and partly in the Mountains.

ACT I.

Scene I.—Manfred *alone.—Scene, a Gothic Gallery.—Time, Midnight.*

Man. The lamp must be replenish'd, but even then
It will not burn so long as I must watch:
My slumbers—if I slumber—are not sleep,
But a continuance of enduring thought,
Which then I can resist not: in my heart
There is a vigil, and these eyes but close
To look within; and yet I live, and bear
The aspect and the form of breathing men.
But grief should be the instructor of the wise;
Sorrow is knowledge: they who know the most
Must mourn the deepest o'er the fatal truth,
The Tree of Knowledge is not that of Life.
Philosophy and science, and the springs
Of wonder, and the wisdom of the world,
I have essay'd, and in my mind there is
A power to make these subject to itself—
But they avail not: I have done men good,
And I have met with good even among men—
But this avail'd not: I have had my foes,
And none have baffled, many fallen before me—
But this avail'd not:—Good, or evil, life,
Powers, passions, all I see in other beings,
Have been to me as rain unto the sands,
Since that all-nameless hour. I have no dread,
And feel the curse to have no natural fear,
Nor fluttering throb, that beats with hopes or wishes,
Or lurking love of something on the earth.—
Now to my task.—
[Mysterious Agency!
Ye spirits of the unbounded Universe! [light—
Whom I have sought in darkness and in
Ye, who do compass earth about, and dwell
In subtler essence—ye, to whom the tops
Of mountains inaccessible are haunts,
And earth's and ocean's caves familiar things—
I call upon ye by the written charm [appear!
Which gives me power upon you—Rise!
[*A pause.*
They come not yet.—Now by the voice of him
Who is the first among you—by this sign,
Which makes you tremble—by the claims of him
Who is undying,—Rise! appear!—Appear!
[*A pause.*
If it be so,—Spirits of earth and air,
Ye shall not thus elude me: by a power,
Deeper than all yet urged, a tyrant-spell,
Which had its birth-place in a star condemn'd,
The burning wreck of a demolish'd world,
A wandering hell in the eternal space!
By the strong curse which is upon my soul,
The thought which is within me and around
I do compel ye to my will.—Appear! [me,

[*A star is seen at the darker end of the gallery: it is stationary: and a voice is heard singing.*

First Spirit.

Mortal! to thy bidding bow'd,
From my mansion in the cloud,
Which the breath of twilight builds,
And the summer's sunset gilds
With the azure and vermilion,
Which is mix'd for my pavilion;
Though thy quest may be forbidden,
On a star-beam I have ridden;
To thine adjuration bow'd,
Mortal—be thy wish avow'd!

Voice of the Second Spirit.

Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains:
They crown'd him long ago
On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds,
With a diadem of snow.
Around his waist are forests braced,
The Avalanche in his hand;
But ere it fall, that thundering ball
Must pause for my command.

The Glacier's cold and restless mass
Moves onward day by day;
But I am he who bids it pass,
Or with its ice delay.
I am the spirit of the place,
Could make the mountain bow
And quiver to his cavern'd base—
And what with me wouldst *Thou?*

Voice of the THIRD SPIRIT.

In the blue depth of the waters,
Where the wave hath no strife,
Where the wind is a stranger,
And the sea-snake hath life,
Where the Mermaid is decking
Her green hair with shells,
Like the storm on the surface
Came the sound of thy spells:
O'er my calm Hall of Coral
The deep echo roll'd—
To the Spirit of Ocean
Thy wishes unfold!

FOURTH SPIRIT.

Where the slumbering earthquake
Lies pillow'd on fire,
And the lakes of bitumen
Rise boilingly higher;
Where the roots of the Andes
Strike deep in the earth,
As their summits to heaven
Shoot soaringly forth;
I have quitted my birthplace,
Thy bidding to bide—
Thy spell hath subdued me,
Thy will be my guide!

FIFTH SPIRIT.

I am the rider of the wind,
The Stirrer of the storm;
The hurricane I left behind
Is yet with lightning warm;
To speed to thee o'er shore and sea
I swept upon the blast;
The fleet I met sail'd well, and yet
'Twill sink ere night be past.

SIXTH SPIRIT.

My dwelling is the shallow of the night,
Why doth thy magic torture me with light?

SEVENTH SPIRIT.

The star which rules thy destiny
Was ruled, ere earth began, by me:
It was a world as fresh and fair
As e'er revolved round sun in air;
Its course was free and regular,
Space bosom'd not a lovelier star.
The hour arrived—and it became
A wandering mass of shapeless flame,
A pathless comet, and a curse,
The menace of the universe;
Still rolling on with innate force,
Without a sphere, without a course,
A bright deformity on high,
The monster of the upper sky!

And thou! beneath its influence born—
Thou worm! whom I obey and scorn—
Forced by a power (which is not thine,
And lent thee but to make thee mine)
For this brief moment to descend,
Where these weak spirits round thee bend
And parley with a thing like thee— [me?
What wouldst thou, Child of Clay! with

The SEVEN SPIRITS.

Earth, ocean, air, night, mountains, winds, thy star,
Are at thy beck and bidding, Child of Clay!
Before thee at thy quest their spirits are—
What wouldst thou with us, son of mortals—say?

Man. Forgetfulness—

First Spirit. Of what—of whom—and why?

Man. Of that which is within me: read it there;—
Ye know it, and I cannot utter it.

Spirit. We can but give thee that which we possess:
Ask of us subjects, sovereignty, the power
O'er earth, the whole, or portion, or a sign
Which shall control the elements, whereof
We are the dominators: each and all,
These shall be thine.

Man. Oblivion, self-oblivion—
Can ye not wring from out the hidden realms
Ye offer so profusely what I ask?

Spirit. It is not in our essence, in our skill;
But—thou may'st die.

Man. Will death bestow it on me?

Spirit. We are immortal, and do not forget!
We are eternal; and to us the past
Is, as the future, present. Art thou answer'd?

Man. Ye mock me—but the power which brought ye here [will!
Hath made you mine. Slaves, scoff not at my
The mind, the spirit, the Promethean spark,
The lightning of my being, is as bright,
Pervading, and far-darting as your own,
And shall not yield to yours, though coop'd in clay!
Answer, or I will teach ye what I am. [ply

Spirit. We answer as we answer'd; our re-
Is even in thine own words.

Man. Why say ye so?

Spirit. If, as thou say'st, thine essence be as ours,
We have replied in telling thee, the thing
Mortals call death hath nought to do with us.

Man. I then have call'd ye from your realms in vain;
Ye cannot, or ye will not, aid me.

Spirit. Say;
What we possess we offer; it is thine:
Bethink ere thou dismiss us, ask again—
Kingdom, and sway, and strength, and length of days— [days?

Man. Accursed! what have I to do with
They are too long already. Hence—begone!

Spirit. Yet pause: being here, our will would do thee service;
Bethink thee, is there then no other gift
Which we can make not worthless in thine eyes?

Man. No, none: yet stay—one moment, ere we part—
I would behold ye face to face. I hear
Your voices, sweet and melancholy sounds,
As music on the waters; and I see
The steady aspect of a clear large star;
But nothing more. Approach me as ye are,
Or one, or all, in your accustom'd forms.
Spirit. We have no forms beyond the elements
Of which we are the mind and principle:
But choose a form—in that we will appear.
Man. I have no choice; there is no form on earth
Hideous or beautiful to me. Let him,
Who is most powerful of ye, take such aspect
As unto him may seem most fitting—Come!
Seventh Spirit (appearing in the shape of a beautiful female figure). Behold!
Man. O God! if it be thus, and *thou*
Art not a madness and a mockery,
I yet might be most happy. I will clasp thee,
And we again will be—[*The figure vanishes.*
My heart is crush'd.
[MANFRED *falls senseless.*

A voice is heard in the Incantation which follows.

When the moon is on the wave,
And the glow-worm in the grass,
And the meteor on the grave,
And the wisp on the morass;
When the fallen stars are shooting,
And the answer'd owls are hooting,
And the silent leaves are still
In the shadow of the hill,
Shall my soul be upon thine,
With a power and with a sign.

Though thy slumber may be deep,
Yet thy spirit shall not sleep;
There are shades which will not vanish,
There are thoughts thou canst not banish;
By a power to thee unknown,
Thou canst never be alone:
Thou art wrapt as with a shroud,
Thou art gather'd in a cloud:
And forever shalt thou dwell
In the spirit of this spell.

Though thou seest me not pass by,
Thou shalt feel me with thine eye
As a thing that, though unseen,
Must be near thee, and hath been;
And when in that secret dread
Thou hast turn'd around thy head,
Thou shalt marvel I am not
As thy shadow on the spot,
And the power which thou dost feel
Shall be what thou must conceal.

And a magic voice and verse
Hath baptized thee with a curse;
And a spirit of the air
Hath begirt thee with a snare:
In the wind there is a verse
Shall forbid thee to rejoice;
And to thee shall Night deny
All the quiet of her sky;
And the day shall have a sun,
Which shall make thee wish it done.

From thy false tears I did distil
An essence which hath strength to kill;
From thy own heart I then did wring
The black blood in its blackest spring:
From thy own smile I snatch'd the snake,
For there it coil'd as in a brake;
From thy own lip I drew the charm
Which gave all these their chiefest harm:
In proving every poison known,
I found the strongest was thine own.

By thy cold breast and serpent smile,
By thy unfathom'd gulfs of guile,
By that most seeming virtuous eye,
By thy shut soul's hypocrisy;
By the perfection of thine art
Which pass'd for human thine own heart;
By thy delight in others' pain,
And by thy brotherhood of Cain,
I call upon thee, and compel
Thyself to be thy proper Hell!

And on thy head I pour the vial
Which doth devote thee to this trial
Nor to slumber, nor to die,
Shall be in thy destiny;
Though thy death shall still seem near
To thy wish, but as a fear:
Lo! the spell now works around thee,
And the clankless chain hath bound thee;
O'er thy heart and brain together
Hath the word been pass'd—now wither!

SCENE II.

The Mountain of the Jungfrau.—Time, Morning. MANFRED *alone upon the Cliffs.*

Man. The spirits I have raised abandon me—
The spells which I have studied baffle me—
The remedy I reck'd of tortured me:
I lean no more on superhuman aid,
It hath no power upon the past, and for
The future, till the past be gulf'd in darkness
It is not of my search.—My Mother Earth,
And thou, fresh breaking Day, and you, ye Mountains,
Why are ye beautiful? I cannot love ye.
And thou, the bright eye of the universe,
That openest over all, and unto all
Art a delight—thou shin'st not on my heart.
And you, ye crags, upon whose extreme edge
I stand, and on the torrent's brink beneath
Behold the tall pines dwindled as to shrubs
In dizziness of distance; when a leap,
A stir, a motion, even a breath, would bring
My breast upon its rocky bosom's bed
To rest forever—wherefore do I pause?
I feel the impulse—yet I do not plunge;
I see the peril—yet do not recede:
And my brain reels—and yet my foot is firm:
There is a power upon me which withholds,
And makes it my fatality to live;

If it be life to wear within myself
This barrenness of spirit, and to be
My own soul's sepulchre, for I have ceased
To justify my deeds unto myself—
The last infirmity of evil. Ay,
Thou winged and cloud-cleaving minister,
[*An eagle passes.*
Whose happy flight is highest into heaven,
Well may'st thou swoop so near me—I should be [gone
Thy prey, and gorge thine eaglets: thou art
Where the eye cannot follow thee; but thine
Yet pierces downward, onward, or above,
With a pervading vision.—Beautiful!
How beautiful is all this visible world!
How glorious in its action and itself!
But we, who name ourselves its sovereigns, we
Half dust, half deity, alike unfit
To sink or soar, with our mix'd essence make
A conflict of its elements, and breathe
The breath of degradation and of pride,
Contending with low wants and lofty will,
Till our mortality predominates, [selves,
And men are—what they name not to them-
And trust not to each other. Hark! the note,

[*The shepherd's pipe in the distance is heard.*

The natural music of the mountain reed—
For here the patriarchal days are not
A pastoral fable—pipes in the liberal air,
Mix'd with the sweet bells of the sauntering herd: [were
My soul would drink those echoes—Oh, that I
The viewless spirit of a lovely sound,
A living voice, a breathing harmony,
A bodiless enjoyment—born and dying
With the blest tone which made me!

Enter from below a CHAMOIS HUNTER.

Chamois hunter. Even so.
This way the chamois leapt: her nimble feet
Have baffled me; my gains to-day will scarce
Repay my break-neck travail.—What is here?
Who seems not of my trade, and yet hath reach'd [eers,
A height which none even of our mountain-
Save our best hunters, may attain: his garb
Is goodly, his mien manly, and his air
Proud as a free-born peasant's at this dis-
I will approach him nearer. [tance.—
Man. (*not perceiving the other*). To be thus— [pines,
Grey-hair'd with anguish, like these blasted
Wrecks of a single winter, barkless, branch-
A blighted trunk upon a cursed root, [less,
Which but supplies a feeling of decay—
And to be thus, eternally but thus,
Having been otherwise! Now furrow'd o'er
With wrinkles, plough'd by moments, not by years
And hours—all tortured into ages—hours
Which I outlive!—Ye toppling crags of ice!
Ye avalanches, whom a breath draws down
In mountainous o'erwhelming, come and crush me!
I hear ye momently above, beneath,
Crash with a frequent conflict; but ye pass,
And only fall on things that still would live;
On the young flourishing forest, or the hut
And hamlet of the harmless villager.
C. Hun. The mists begin to rise up from the valley;
I'll warn him to descend, or he may chance
To lose at once his way and life together.
Man. The mists boil up around the glaciers; clouds [phury,
Rise curling fast beneath me, white and sul-
Like foam from the roused ocean of deep Hell,
Whose every wave breaks on a living shore,
Heap'd with the damn'd like pebbles.—I am giddy.
C. Hun. I must approach him cautiously; if
A sudden step will startle him, and he [near,
Seems tottering already.
Man. Mountains have fallen,
Leaving a gap in the clouds, and with the shock
Rocking their Alpine brethren; filling up
The ripe green valley with destruction's splinters;
Damming the rivers with a sudden dash,
Which crush'd the waters into mist, and made
Their fountains find another channel.—Thus,
Thus, in its old age, did Mount Rosenberg—
Why stood I not beneath it?
C. Hun. Friend! have a care,
Your next step may be fatal!—for the love
Of Him who made you, stand not on that brink! [been for me a fitting tomb;
Man. (*not hearing him*). Such would have
My bones had then been quiet in their depth:
They had not then been strewn upon the rocks
For the wind's pastime—as thus—thus they shall be— [heavens!
In this one plunge.—Farewell, ye opening
Look not upon me thus reproachfully—
You were not meant for me—Earth! take these atoms!

[*As* MANFRED *is in act to spring from the cliff, the* CHAMOIS HUNTER *seizes and retains him with a sudden grasp.*

C. Hun. Hold, madman!—though weary of thy life, [blood—
Stain not our pure vales with thy guilty
Away with me——I will not quit my hold.
Man. I am most sick at heart—nay, grasp me not—
I am all feebleness—the mountains whirl,
Spinning around me——I grow blind——
What art thou? [me——
C. Hun. I'll answer that anon.—Away with
The clouds grow thicker——there—now lean on me—— [and cling
Place your foot here—here, take this staff,
A moment to that shrub—now give me your hand,
And hold fast by my girdle—softly—well—
The Chalet will be gain'd within an hour—
Come on, we'll quickly find a surer footing,
And something like a pathway, which the torrent

Hath wash'd since winter.—Come, 'tis bravely done—
You should have been a hunter.—Follow me.
[*As they descend the rocks with difficulty, the scene closes.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*A Cottage among the Bernese Alps.*

MANFRED *and the* CHAMOIS HUNTER.

C. Hun. No, no—yet pause—thou must not yet go forth:
Thy mind and body are alike unfit
To trust each other, for some hours at least;
When thou art better, I will be thy guide—
But whither?

Man. It imports not: I do know
My route full well, and need no further guidance. [high lineage—

C. Hun. Thy garb and gait bespeak thee of
One of the many chiefs, whose castled crags
Look o'er the lower valleys—which of these
May call thee Lord? I only know their portals:
My way of life leads me but rarely down
To bask by the huge hearths of those old halls,
Carousing with the vassals; but the paths
Which step from out our mountains to their doors, [thine?
I know from childhood—which of these is

Man. No matter.

C. Hun. Well, sir, pardon me the question,
And be of better cheer. Come, taste my wine:
'Tis of an ancient vintage; many a day
'T has thaw'd my veins among our glaciers, now
Let it do thus for thine.—Come, pledge me fairly. [brim!

Man. Away, away! there's blood upon the brim!
Wilt it then never—never sink in the earth?

C. Hun. What dost thou mean? thy senses wander from thee. [warm stream

Man. I say 'tis blood—my blood! the pure
Which ran in the veins of my fathers, and in ours [heart,
When we were in our youth, and had one
And loved each other as we should not love,
And this was shed: but still it rises up,
Coloring the clouds, that shut me out from heaven,
Where thou art not—and I shall never be.

C. Hun. Man of strange words, and some half-maddening sin,
Which makes thee people vacancy, whate'er
Thy dread and sufferance be, there's comfort yet—
The aid of holy men, and heavenly patience—

Man. Patience and patience! Hence—that word was made
For brutes of burthen, not for birds of prey;
Preach it to mortals of a dust like thine—
I am not of thine order.

C. Hun. Thanks to heaven!
I would not be of thine for the free fame
Of William Tell: but whatsoe'er thine ill,
It must be borne, and these wild starts are useless. [live.

Man. Do I not bear it?—Look on me—I

C. Hun. This is convulsion, and no healthful life. [years,

Man. I tell thee, man, I have lived many
Many long years, but they are nothing now
To those which I must number: ages—ages—
Space and eternity—and consciousness,
With the fierce thirst of death—and still unslaked! [die age

C. Hun. Why, on thy brow the seal of mid-
Hath scarce been set: I am thy elder far.

Man. Think'st thou existence doth depend on time?
It doth; but actions are our epochs: mine
Have made my days and nights imperishable,
Endless, and all alike, as sands on the shore,
Innumerable atoms; and one desert, [break,
Barren and cold, on which the wild waves
But nothing rests, save carcases and wrecks,
Rocks, and the salt-surf weeds of bitterness.

C. Hun. Alas! he's mad—but yet I must not leave him. [I see

Man. I would I were—for then the things
Would be but a distemper'd dream.

C. Hun. What is it
That thou dost see, or think that thou look'st upon?

Man. Myself, and thee—a peasant of the Alps—
Thy humble virtues, hospitable home,
And spirit patient, pious, proud, and free;
Thy self-respect, grafted on innocent thoughts; [toils,
Thy days of health, and nights of sleep; thy
By danger dignified, yet guiltless; hopes
Of cheerful old age and a quiet grave,
With cross and garland over its green turf,
And thy grandchildren's love for epitaph:
This do I see—and then I look within—
It matters not—my soul was scorched already!

C. Hun. And wouldst thou then exchange thy lot for mine? [nor exchange

Man. No friend! I would not wrong thee, by
My lot with living being: I can bear—
However wretchedly, 'tis still to bear—
In life what others could not brook to dream,
But perish in their slumber.

C. Hun. And with this—
This cautious feeling for another's pain,
Canst thou be black with evil?—say not so.
Can one of gentle thoughts have wreak'd revenge
Upon his enemies? [me—

Man. Oh! no, no, no! [My injuries came down on those who loved
On those whom I best loved: I never quell'd
An enemy, save in my just defence—
But my embrace was fatal.

C. Hun. Heaven give thee rest!
And penitence to restore thee to thyself:
My prayers shall be for thee.

Man. I need them not,
But can endure thy pity. I depart—
'Tis time—farewell!—Here's gold and thanks for thee:
No words—it is thy due.—Follow me not—
I know my path—the mountain peril's past;
And once again I charge thee, follow not!
[*Exit* MANFRED.

SCENE II.

A lower Valley in the Alps—A Cataract.

Enter MANFRED.

It is not noon—the sunbow's rays still arch*
The torrent with the many hues of heaven,
And roll the sheeted silver's waving column
O'er the crag's headlong perpendicular,
And flings its lines of foaming light along,
And to and fro, like the pale courser's tail,
The Giant steed, to be bestrode by Death,
As told in the Apocalypse. No eyes
But mine now drink this sight of loveliness;
I should be sole in this sweet solitude,
And with the Spirit of the place divide
The homage of these waters.—I will call her.

[MANFRED *takes some of the water into the palm of his hand, and flings it into the air, muttering the adjuration. After a pause, the* WITCH OF THE ALPS *rises beneath the arch of the sunbow of the torrent.*

Beautiful Spirit! with thy hair of light,
And dazzling eyes of glory, in whose form
The charms of earth's least mortal daughters
To an unearthly stature, in an essence [grow
Of purer elements; while the hues of youth—
Carnation'd like a sleeping infant's cheek,
Rock'd by the beating of her mother's heart,
Or the rose tints, which summer's twilight
Upon the lofty glacier's virgin snow, [leaves
The blush of earth, embracing with her heaven—
Tinge thy celestial aspect, and make tame
The beauties of the sunbow which bends o'er
Beautiful Spirit! in thy calm clear brow, [thee.
Wherein is glass'd serenity of soul,
Which of itself shows immortality,
I read that thou wilt pardon to a Son
Of Earth, whom the abstruser powers permit
At times to commune with them—if that he
Avail him of his spells—to call thee thus,
And gaze on thee a moment.

Witch. Son of Earth!
I know thee, and the powers which gave thee power;
I know thee for a man of many thoughts,
And deeds of good and ill, extreme in both,
Fatal and fated in thy sufferings. [me?
I have expected this—what wouldst thou with

Man. To look upon thy beauty—nothing further.
The face of the earth hath madden'd me, and I
Take refuge in her mysteries, and pierce
To the abodes of those who govern her—
But they can nothing aid me. I have sought
From them what they could not bestow, and
I search no further. [now

Witch. What could be thy quest
Which is not in the power of the most powerful,
The rulers of the invisible? [erful,

Man. A boon;
But why should I repeat it? 'twere in vain.

Witch. I know not that; let thy lips utter it.

Man. Well, though it torture me, 'tis but the same; [upwards
My pang shall find a voice. From my youth
My spirit walk'd not with the souls of men,
Nor look'd upon the earth with human eyes;
the thirst of their ambition was not mine,
The aim of their existence was not mine;
My joys, my griefs, my passions, and my powers,
Made me a stranger; though I wore the form,
I had no sympathy with breathing flesh,
Nor midst the creatures of clay that girded me
Was there but one who—but of her anon.
I said, with men, and with the thoughts of men,
I held but slight communion; but instead,
My joy was in the Wilderness, to breathe
The difficult air of the iced mountain's top,
Where the birds dare not build, nor insect's wing
Flit o'er the herbless granite; or to plunge
Into the torrent, and to roll along
On the swift whirl of the new breaking wave
Of river-stream or ocean, in their flow.
In these my early strength exulted; or
To follow through the night the moving moon,
The stars and their development; or catch
The dazzling lightnings till my eyes grew dim;
Or to look, list'ning, on the scattered leaves,
While autumn winds were at their evening song.
These were my pastimes, and to be alone;
For if the beings, of whom I was one,—
Hating to be so—cross'd me in my path,
I felt myself degraded back to them,
And was all clay again. And then I dived,
In my lone wanderings, to the caves of death,
Searching its cause in its effect; and drew
From wither'd bones, and skulls, and heap'd-up dust,
Conclusions most forbidden. Then I pass'd
The nights of years in sciences untaught,
Save in the old time; and with time and toil,
And terrible ordeal, and such penance
As in itself hath power upon the air,
And spirits that do compass air and earth,
Space, and the peopled infinite, I made
Mine eyes familiar with Eternity,
Such as, before me, did the Magi, and
He who from out the fountain dwellings raised
Eros and Anteros,* at Gadara,
As I do thee;—and with my knowledge grew
The thirst of knowledge, and the power and joy
Of this most bright intelligence, until—

Witch. Proceed.

Man. Oh! I but thus prolong'd my words,
Boasting these idle attributes, because
As I approach the core of my heart's grief—

* This iris is formed by the rays of the sun over the lower part of the Alpine torrents; it is exactly like a rainbow come down to pay a visit, and so close that you may walk into it: this effect lasts till noon.

* The philosopher Jamblicus. The story of the raising of Eros and Anteros may be found in his Life by Eunapius. It is well told.

But to my task. I have not named to thee
Father or mother, mistress, friend, or being
With whom I wore the chain of human ties;
If I had such, they seem'd not such to me—
Yet there was one—
Witch. Spare not thyself—proceed.
Man. She was like me in lineaments—her eyes,
Her hair, her features, all, to the very tone
Even of her voice, they said were like to mine;
But soften'd all, and temper'd into beauty:
She had the same lone thoughts and wanderings,
The quest of hidden knowledge, and a mind
To comprehend the universe: nor these
Alone, but with them gentler powers than mine,
Pity, and smiles, and fears—which I had not;
And tenderness—but that I had for her;
Humility—and that I never had. [own—
Her faults were mine—her virtues were her
I loved her, and destroy'd her!
Witch. With thy hand?
Man. Not with my hand, but heart—which broke her heart—
It gazed on mine and wither'd. I have shed
Blood, but not hers—and yet her blood was
I saw—and could not stanch it. [shed—
Witch. And for this—
A being of the race thou dost despise,
The order which thine own would rise above,
Mingling with us and ours, thou dost forego
The gifts of our great knowledge, and shrink'st
To recreant mortality—Away! [back
Man. Daughter of Air! I tell thee, since that hour—
But words are breath—look on me in my sleep,
Or watch my watchings—Come and sit by me!
My solitude is solitude no more,
But peopled with the Furies,—I have gnash'd
My teeth in darkness till returning morn,
Then cursed myself till sunset;—I have pray'd
For madness as a blessing—'tis denied me.
I have affronted death—but in the war
Of elements the waters shrunk from me,
And fatal things pass'd harmless—the cold hand
Of an all-pitiless demon held me back,
Back by a single hair, which would not break.
In phantasy, imagination, all
The affluence of my soul—which one day was
A Crœsus in creation—I plunged deep,
But, like an ebbing wave, it dash'd me back
Into the gulf of my unfathom'd thought.
I plunged amidst mankind—Forgetfulness
I sought in all, save where 'tis to be found,
And that I have to learn—my sciences,
My long pursued and superhuman art,
Is mortal here—I dwell in my despair—
And live—and live forever.
Witch. It may be
That I can aid thee.
Man. To do this thy power
Must wake the dead, or lay me low with them.
Do so—in any shape—in any hour—
With any torture—so it be the last.
Witch. That is not in my province; but if thou
Wilt swear obedience to my will, and do
My bidding, it may help thee to thy wishes.
Man. I will not swear—Obey! and whom? the spirits
Whose presence I command, and be the slave
Of those who served me—Never!
Witch. Is this all?
Hast thou no gentler answer? Yet bethink thee,
And pause ere thou rejectest.
Man. I have said it.
Witch. Enough!—I may retire then—say!
Man. Retire!
[*The* Witch *disappears.*
Man. [*alone.*] We are the fools of time and terror: days
Steal on us and steal from us; yet we live,
Loathing our life, and dreading still to die.
In all the days of this detested yoke—
This vital weight upon the struggling heart,
Which sinks with sorrow, or beats quick with
O joy that ends in agony or faintness—[pain,
In all the days of past and future, for
In life there is no present, we can number
How few—how less than few—wherein the soul [back
Forbears to pant for death, and yet draws
As from a stream in winter, though the chill
Be but a moment's. I have one resource
Still in my science—I can call the dead,
And ask them what it is we dread to be:
The sternest answer can but be the Grave,
And that is nothing—if they answer not—
The buried Prophet answer'd to the Hag
Of Endor; and the Spartan monarch drew
From the Byzantine maid's unsleeping spirit
An answer and his destiny—he slew
That which he loved, unknowing what he slew,
And died unpardon'd—though he call'd in aid
The Phyxian Jove, and in Phygalia roused
The Arcadian Evocators to compel
The indignant shadow to depose her wrath,
Or fix her term of vengeance—she replied
In words of dubious import, but fulfill'd.*
If I had never lived, that which I love
Had still been living: had I never loved,
That which I love would still be beautiful—
Happy and giving happiness. What is she?
What is she now?—a sufferer for my sins—
A thing I dare not think upon—or nothing.
Within few hours I shall not call in vain—
Yet in this hour I dread the thing I dare;
Until this hour I never shrunk to gaze
On spirit, good or evil—now I tremble,
And feel a strange cold thaw upon my heart.
But I can act even what I most abhor,
And champion human fears—The night approaches. [*Exit.*

* The story of Pausanias, King of Sparta (who commanded the Greeks at the battle of Platea, and afterwards perished for an attempt to betray the Lacedæmonians), and Cleonice, is told in Plutarch's Life of Cimon; and in the Laconics of Pausanias, the sophist, in his description of Greece.

SCENE III.—*The Summit of the Jungfrau Mountain.*

Enter First Destiny.

The moon is rising broad, and round, and bright;
And here on snows, where never human foot
Of common mortal trod, we nightly tread,
And leave no traces; o'er the savage sea,
The glassy ocean of the mountain ice,
We skim its rugged breakers, which put on
The aspect of a tumbling tempest's foam,
Frozen in a moment—a dread whirlpool's im-
And this most steep fantastic pinnacle, [age:
The fretwork of some earthquake—where the clouds
Pause to repose themselves in passing by—
Is sacred to our revels, or our vigils;
Here do I wait my sisters, on our way
To the Hall of Arimanes, for to-night [not.
Is our great festival—'tis strange they come

A Voice without, singing.

The Captive Usurper,
Hurl'd down from the throne,
Lay buried in torpor,
Forgotten and lone;
I broke through his slumbers,
I shiver'd his chain,
I leagued him with numbers—
He's Tyrant again!
With the blood of a million he'll answer my care, [despair.
With a nation's destruction—his flight and

Second Voice, without.

The ship sail'd on, the ship sail'd fast,
But I left not a sail, and I left not a mast:
There is not a plank of the hull or the deck,
And there is not a wretch to lament o'er his wreck, [hair,
Save one, whom I held, as he swam, by the
And he was a subject well worthy my care:
A traitor on land, and a pirate at sea—
But I sav'd him to wreak further havoc for me.

First Destiny, *answering.*

The city lies sleeping;
The morn, to deplore it,
May dawn on it weeping:
Sullenly, slowly,
The black plague flew o'er it—
Thousands lie lowly;
Tens of thousands shall perish
The living shall fly from
The sick they should cherish;
But nothing can vanquish
The touch that they die from.
Sorrow and anguish,
And evil and dread,
Envelope a nation—
The blest are the dead,
Who see not the sight
Of their own desolation—
This work of a night—
This wreck of a realm—this deed of my doing— [ing!
For ages I've done, and shall still be renew-

Enter the Second *and* Third Destinies.

The Three.

Our hands contain the hearts of men,
Our footsteps are their graves;
We only give to take again
The spirits of our slaves!

First Des. Welcome!—Where's Nemesis?

Second Des. At some great work:
But what I know not, for my hands were full.

Third Des. Behold, she cometh.

Enter Nemesis.

First Des. Say, where hast thou been?
My sisters and myself are slow to-night.

Nem. I was detain'd repairing shatter'd
Marrying fools, restoring dynasties, [thrones,
Avenging men upon their enemies,
And making them repent their own revenge;
Goading the wise to madness: from the dull
Shaping out oracles to rule the world
Afresh, for they were waxing out of date;
And mortals dared to ponder for themselves,
To weigh kings in the balance, and to speak
Of freedom, the forbidden fruit—Away!
We have outstay'd the hour—mount we our clouds! [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—*The Hall of Arimanes*—Arimanes *on his throne, a Globe of Fire, surrounded by the* Spirits.

Hymn of the Spirits.

Hail to our master!—Prince of Earth and Air! [hand
Who walks the clouds and waters—in his
The sceptre of the elements, which tear
Themselves to chaos at his high command!
He breatheth—and a tempest shakes the sea;
He speaketh—and the clouds reply in thunder;
He gazeth—from his glance the sunbeams flee;
He moveth—earthquakes rend the world asunder.
Beneath his foot the volcanoes rise;
His shadow is the Pestilence; his path
The comet's herald through the crackling skies;
And planets turn to ashes at his wrath,
To him War offers daily sacrifice;
To him Death pays his tribute; Life is his,
With all its infinite of agonies—
And his the spirit of whatever is!

Enter the Destinies *and* Nemesis.

First Des. Glory to Arimanes! on the earth
His power increaseth—both my sisters did
His bidding, nor did I neglect my duty!

Second Des. Glory to Arimanes! we who bow
The necks of men bow down before his throne!

Third Des. Glory to Arimanes! we await his nod!

Nem. Sovereign of sovereigns, we are thine,

And all that liveth, more or less, is ours,
And most things wholly so; still to increase
Our power, increasing thine, demands our care,
And we are vigilant—thy late commands
Have been fulfill'd to the utmost.

Enter MANFRED.

A Spirit. What is here?
A mortal.—Thou most rash and fatal wretch.
Bow down and worship!
Second Spirit. I do know the man—
A Magian of great power, and fearful skill!
Third Spirit. Bow down and worship, slave!
What, know'st thou not [obey!
Thine and our Sovereign?—Tremble, and
All the Spirits. Prostrate thyself, and thy condemned clay,
Child of the Earth! or dread the worst.
Man. I know it;
And yet ye see I kneel not.
Fourth Spirit. 'Twill be taught thee.
Man. 'Tis taught already;—many a night on the earth, [face,
On the bare ground, have I bow'd down my
And strew'd my head with ashes; I have known
The fulness of humiliation, for
I sunk before my vain despair, and knelt
To my own desolation.
Fifth Spirit. Dost thou dare
Refuse to Arimanes on his throne
What the whole earth accords, beholding not
The terror of his glory? Crouch! I say.
Man. Bid *him* bow down to that which is above him,
The overruling Infinite—the Maker
Who made him not for worship—let him kneel,
And we will kneel together.
The Spirits. Crush the worm!
Tear him in pieces!—
First Des. Hence! Avaunt!—he's mine,
Prince of the Powers Invisible! this man
Is of no common order, as his port
And presence here denote; his sufferings
Have been of an immortal nature, like
Our own; his knowledge, and his powers and
As far as is compatible with clay, [will,
Which clogs the ethereal essence, have been such
As clay hath seldom borne; his aspirations
Have been beyond the dwellers of the earth,
And they have only taught him what we know—
That knowledge is not happiness, and science
But an exchange of ignorance for that
Which is another kind of ignorance.
This is not all—the passions, attributes
Of earth and heaven, and from which no power, nor being,
Nor breath from the worm upward is exempt,
Have pierced his heart; and in their consequence,
Made him a thing, which I, who pity not,
Yet pardon those who pity. He is mine
And thine, it may be—be it so, or not,
No other spirit in this region hath
A soul like his—or power upon his soul.
Nem. What doth he here then?
First Des. Let him answer that.
Man. Ye know what I have known; and without power
I could not be among ye; but there are
Powers deeper still beyond—I come in quest
Of such, to answer unto what I seek.
Nem. What wouldst thou?
Man. Thou canst not reply to me.
Call up the dead—my question is for them.
Nem. Great Arimanes, doth thy will avouch
The wishes of this mortal?
Ari. Yea.
Nem. Whom wouldst thou
Uncharnel?
Man. One without a tomb—call up
Astarte.

NEMESIS.

Shadow! or Spirit!
Whatever thou art,
Which still doth inherit
The whole or a part
Of the form of thy birth,
Of the mould of thy clay,
Which return'd to the earth,
Re-appear to the day!
Bear what thou borest,
The heart and the form,
And the aspect thou worest
Redeem from the worm.
Appear!—appear!—appear!
Who sent thee there requires thee here!

[*The Phantom of* ASTARTE *rises and stands in their midst.*

Man. Can this be death? there's bloom upon her cheek;
But now I see it is no living hue,
But a strange hectic—like the unnatural red
Which autumn plants upon the perish'd leaf,
It is the same! O God! that I should dread
To look upon the same—Astarte!—No,
I cannot speak to her—but bid her speak—
Forgive me or condemn me.

NEMESIS.

By the power which hath broken
The grave which enthrall'd thee,
Speak to him who hath spoken,
Or those who have call'd thee.
Man. She is silent,
And in that silence I am more than answer'd.
Nem. My power extends no further. Prince of Air!
It rests with thee alone—command her voice.
Ari. Spirit—obey this sceptre.
Nem. Silent still!
She is not of our order, but belongs
To the other powers. Mortal! thy quest is vain,
And we are baffled also.
Man. Hear me; hear me—
Astarte! my beloved! speak to me:
I have so much endured—so much endure—

Look on me! the grave hath not changed thee more
Than I am changed for thee. Thou lovedst me
Too much, as I loved thee; we were not made
To torture thus each other, though it were
The deadliest sin to love as we have loved.
Say that thou loathst me not—that I do bear
This punishment for both—that thou wilt be
One of the blessed—and that I shall die;
For hitherto all hateful things conspire
To bind me in existence—in a life
Which makes me shrink from immortality—
A future like the past. I cannot rest.
I know not what I ask, nor what I seek:
I feel but what thou art—and what I am;
And I would hear yet once before I perish
The voice which was my music—Speak to me!
For I have call'd on thee in the still night,
Startled the slumbering birds from the hush'd boughs, [the caves
And woke the mountain wolves, and made
Acquainted with thy vainly echoed name,
Which answer'd me—many things answer'd me—
Spirits and men—but thou wert silent all.
Yet speak to me! I have outwatch'd the stars,
And gazed o'er heaven in vain in search of thee.
Speak to me! I have wander'd o'er the earth,
And never found thy likeness.—Speak to me!
Look on the fiends around—they feel for me:
I fear them not, and feel for thee alone—
Speak to me! though it be in wrath; but say—
I reck not what—but let me hear thee once—
This once—once more!

Phantom of Astarte. Manfred!

Man. Say on, say on—
I live but in the sound—it is thy voice!

Phan. Manfred! to-morrow ends thine
Farewell! [earthly ills,

Man. Yet one word more—am I forgiven?

Phan. Farewell.

Man. Say, shall we meet again?

Phan. Farewell!

Man. One word for mercy! Say thou lovest me.

Phan. Manfred! [*The Spirit of* Astarte *disappears.*

Nem. She's gone, and will not be recall'd;
Her words will be fulfill'd. Return to the earth.

A Spirit. He is convulsed.—This is to be a mortal,
And seek the things beyond mortality.

Another Spirit. Yet, see, he mastereth himself, and makes
His torture tributary to his will.
Had he been one of us, he would have made
An awful spirit.

Nem. Hast thou further question
Of our great sovereign, or his worshippers?

Man. None.

Nem. Then for a time farewell.

Man. We meet then! Where? On the earth? [corded
Even as thou wilt: and for the grace ac-
I now depart a debtor. Fare ye well!

[*Exit* Manfred.

(*Scene closes.*)

ACT III.

Scene I.—*A Hall in the Castle of* Manfred.

Manfred *and* Herman.

Man. What is the hour?

Her. It wants but one till sunset,
And promises a lovely twilight.

Man. Say,
Are all things so disposed of in the tower
As I directed?

Her. All, my lord, are ready:
Here is the key and casket.

Man. It is well:
Thou may'st retire. [*Exit* Herman.

Man. (*alone.*) There is a calm upon me—
Inexplicable stillness! which till now
Did not belong to what I knew of life.
If that I did not know philosophy
To be of all our vanities the motliest,
The merest word that ever fool'd the ear
From out the schoolman's jargon, I should deem
The golden secret, the sought "Kalon" found,
And seated in my soul. It will not last,
But it is well to have known it, though but once: [sense,
It hath enlarged my thoughts with a new
And I within my tablets would note down
That there is such a feeling. Who is there?

Re-enter Herman.

Her. My lord, the Abbot of St. Maurice
To greet your presence. [craves

Enter the Abbot of St. Maurice.

Abbot. Peace be with Count Manfred!

Man. Thanks, holy father! welcome to these walls;
Thy presence honors them, and blesseth those
Who dwell within them.

Abbot. Would it were so, Count!—
But I would fain confer with thee alone.

Man. Herman, retire.—What would my reverend guest?

Abbot. Thus, without prelude:—Age and zeal, my office,
And good intent must plead my privilege;
Our near, though not acquainted neighborhood,
May also be my herald. Rumors strange,
And of unholy nature, are abroad,
And busy with thy name; a noble name
For centuries; may he who bears it now
Transmit it unimpair'd!

Man. Proceed—I listen.

Abbot. 'Tis said thou holdest converse with the things
Which are forbidden to the search of man;
That with the dwellers of the dark abodes,
The many evil and unheavenly spirits
Which walk the valley of the shade of death,
Thou communest. I know that with mankind,

Thy fellows in creation, thou dost rarely
Exchange thy thoughts, and that thy solitude
Is as an anchorite's, were it but holy.
Man. And what are they who do avouch these things? [antry—
Abbot. My pious brethren—the scared peas-
Even thy own vassals—who do look on thee
With most unquiet eyes. Thy life's in peril.
Man. Take it.
Abbot. I come to save, and not destroy—
I would not pry into thy secret soul;
But if these things be sooth, there still is time
For penitence and pity: reconcile thee
With the true church, and through the church to Heaven. [e'er
Man. I hear thee. This is my rêply; What-
I may have been, or am, doth rest between
Heaven and myself—I shall not choose a mor-
To be my mediator. Have I sinn'd [tal
Against your ordinances? Prove, and punish!
Abbot. My son! I do not speak of punishment,
But penitence and pardon;—with thyself
The choice of such remains—and for the last,
Our institutions and our strong belief [sin
Have given me power to smooth the path from
To higher hope and better thoughts; the first
I leave to Heaven—"Vengeance is mine alone!"
So saith the Lord, and with all humbleness
His servant echoes back the awful word.
Man. Old man! there is no power in holy men,
Nor charm in prayer—nor purifying form
Of penitence—nor outward look—nor fast—
Nor agony—nor, greater than all these,
The innate tortures of that deep despair,
Which is remorse without the fear of hell,
But all in all sufficient to itself
Would make a hell of heaven—can exorcise
From out the unbound'd spirit, the quick sense
Of its own sins, wrongs, sufferance, and revenge
Upon itself; there is no future pang
Can deal that justice on the self-condemn'd
He deals on his own soul.
Abbot. All this is well;
For this will pass away, and be succeeded
By an auspicious hope, which shall look up
With calm assurance to that blessed place,
Which all who seek may win, whatever be
Their earthly errors, so they be atoned:
And the commencement of atonement is
The sense of its necessity.—Say on—[taught;
And all our Church can teach thee shall be
And all we can absolve thee shall be pardon'd.
Man. When Rome's sixth emperor* was near his last;
The victim of a self-inflicted wound,
To shun the torments of a public death [dier,
From senates once his slaves, a certain sol-
With show of loyal pity, would have stanch'd
The gushing throat with his officious robe;
The dying Roman thrust him back, and said—
Some empire still in his expiring glance—
"It is too late—is this fidelity?"
Abbot. And what of this?
Man. I answer with the Roman—
"It is too late!"
Abbot. It never can be so,
To reconcile thyself with thy own soul,
And thy own soul with Heaven. Hast thou no hope?
'Tis strange—even those who do despair above
Yet shape themselves some phantasy on earth,
To which frail twig they cling like drowning men.
Man. Ay—father! I have had those earthly
And noble aspirations in my youth, [visions
To make my own the mind of other men,
The enlightener of nations; and to rise
I knew not whither—it might be to fall;
But fall even as the mountain-cataract,
Which having leapt from its more dazzling height,
Even in the foaming strength of its abyss,
(Which casts up misty columns that become
Clouds raining from the re-ascended skies,)
Lies low, but mighty still.—But this is past,
My thoughts mistook themselves.
Abbot. And wherefore so?
Man. I could not tame my nature down; for he [and sue—
Must serve who fain would sway; and soothe—
And watch all time—and pry into all place—
And be a living lie—who would become
A mighty thing amongst the mean, and such
The mass are: I disdain'd to mingle with
A herd, though to be leader—and of wolves.
The lion is alone, and so am I. [men?
Abbot. And why not live and act with other
Man. Because my nature was averse from life;
And yet not cruel; for I would not make,
But find a desolation:—like the wind,
The red-hot breath of the most lone Simoom,
Which dwells but in the desert, and sweeps o'er [blast,
The barren sands which bear no shrubs to blast
And revels o'er their wild and arid waves,
And seeketh not, so that it is not sought,
But being met is deadly; such hath been
The course of my existence; but there came
Things in my path which are no more.
Abbot. Alas!
I 'gin to fear that thou art past all aid
From me and from my calling; yet so young,
I still would—
Man. Look on me! there is an order
Of mortals on the earth, who do become
Old in their youth, and die ere middle age,
Without the violence of warlike death;
Some perishing of pleasure—some of study—
Some worn with toil—some of mere weari-
Some of disease—and some insanity—[ness—
And some of wither'd or of broken hearts;
For this last is a malady which slays
More than are number'd in the lists of Fate,
Taking all shapes, and bearing many names.
Look upon me! for even of all these things

* Otho.

Have I partaken; and of all these things
One were enough; then wonder not that I
Am what I am, but that I ever was,
Or having been, that I am still on earth.
Abbot. Yet, hear me still——
Man. Old man! I do respect
Thine order, and revere thy years; I deem
Thy purpose pious, but it is vain:
Think me not churlish; I would spare thyself
Far more than me, in shunning at this time
All further colloquy—and so—farewell!
[*Exit* MANFRED.
Abbot. This should have been a noble creature: he
Hath all the energy which would have made
A goodly frame of glorious elements,
Had they been wisely mingled; as it is,
It is an awful chaos—light and darkness—
And mind and dust—and passions and pure thoughts,
Mix'd and contending without end or order—
All dormant or destructive: he will perish,
And yet he must not; I will try once more,
For such are worth redemption; and my duty
Is to dare all things for a righteous end.
I'll follow him—but cautiously, though surely.
[*Exit* ABBOT.

SCENE II.—*Another Chamber.*

MANFRED *and* HERMAN.

Her. My lord, you bade me wait on you at
He sinks behind the mountain. [sunset:
Man. Doth he so?
I will look on him.
[MANFRED *advances to the window of the hall.*
Glorious Orb! the idol
Of early nature, and the vigorous race
Of undiseased mankind, the giant sons *
Of the embrace of angels, with a sex
More beautiful than they, which did draw down
The erring spirits, who can ne'er return.—
Most glorious orb! that wert a worship, ere
The mystery of thy making was reveal'd!
Thou earliest minister of the Almighty,
Which gladdened, on their mountain-tops, the hearts
Of the Chaldean shepherds, till they pour'd
Themselves in orisons! Thou material God!
And representative of the Unknown— [star!
Who chose thee for his shadow! Thou chief
Centre of many stars! which mak'st our earth
Endurable, and temperest the hues
And hearts of all who walk within thy rays!
Sire of the seasons! Monarch of the climes,
And those who dwell in them! for near or far,
Our inborn spirits have a tint of thee,
Even as our outward aspects;—thou dost rise,
And shine, and set in glory. Fare thee well!
I ne'er shall see thee more. As my first glance
Of love and wonder was for thee, then take
My latest look: thou wilt not beam on one
To whom the gifts of life and warmth have been
Of a more fatal nature. He is gone: [I follow.
[*Exit* MANFRED.

SCENE III.—*The Mountains.—The Castle of* MANFRED *at some distance.—A terrace before a Tower.—Time, Twilight.*

HERMAN, MANUEL, *and other Dependents of* MANFRED.

Her. 'Tis strange enough; night after night, for years,
He hath pursued long vigils in this tower,
Without a witness. I have been within it—
So have we all been ofttimes: but from it,
Or its contents, it were impossible
To draw conclusions absolute, of aught
His studies tend to. To be sure there is
One chamber where none enter; I would give
The fee of what I have to come these three
To pore upon its mysteries. [years,
Manuel. 'Twere dangerous;
Content thyself with what thou know'st already,
Her. Ay, Manuel! thou art elderly and wise
And couldst say much; thou hast dwelt within the castle—
How many years is't?
Manuel. Ere Count Manfred's birth,
I served his father, whom he nought resembles.
Her. There be more sons in like predicament.
But wherein do they differ?
Manuel. I speak not
Of features or of form, but mind and habits;
Count Sigismund was proud—but gay and free—
A warrior and a reveller; he dwelt not
With books and solitude, nor made the night
A gloomy vigil, but a festal time,
Merrier than day; he did not walk the rocks
And forest like a wolf, nor turn aside
From men and their delights.
Her. Beshrew the hour,
But those were jocund times! I would that such
Would visit the old walls again; they look
As if they had forgotten them.
Manuel. These walls
Must change their chieftain first. Oh! I have
Some strange things in them, Herman. [seen
Her. Come, be friendly;
Relate me some to while away our watch:
I've heard thee darkly speak of an event
Which happen'd hereabouts, by this same tower. [member
Manuel. That was a night indeed! I do re-
'Twas twilight, as it may be now, and such
Another evening; yon red cloud which rests
On Eigher's pinnacle, so rested then
So like that it might be the same; the wind
Was faint and gusty, and the mountain snows
Began to glitter with the climbing moon;
Count Manfred was, as now, within his tower—
How occupied, we know not, but with him
The sole companion of his wanderings
And watchings—her, whom of all earthly things

* "And it came to pass, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair," etc.—"There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." GEN. vi. 2, 4.

That lived, the only thing he seem'd to love—
As he, indeed, by blood was bound to do,—
The Lady Astarte, his——
Hush! who comes here?

Enter the ABBOT.

Abbot. Where is your master?
Her. Yonder, in the tower.
Abbot. I must speak with him.
Manuel. 'Tis impossible;
He is most private, and must not be thus
Intruded on.
Abbot. Upon myself I take
The forfeit of my fault, if fault there be—
But I must see him.
Her. Thou hast seen him once
This eve already.
Abbot. Herman! I command thee,
Knock, and apprise the Count of my approach.
Her. We dare not
Abbot. Then it seems I must be herald
Of my own purpose.
Manuel. Reverend father, stop—
I pray you pause.
Abbot. Why so?
Manuel. But step this way,
And I will tell you further. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.—*Interior of the Tower.*

MANFRED *alone.*

The stars are forth, the moon above the tops
Of the snow-shining mountains.—Beautiful!
I linger yet with Nature, for the night
Hath been to me a more familiar face
Than that of man; and in her starry shade
Of dim and solitary loveliness,
I learn'd the language of another world.
I do remember me, that in my youth,
When I was wandering, upon such a night
I stood within the Coliseum's wall,
'Midst the chief relics of almighty Rome;
The trees which grew along the broken arches
Waved dark in the blue midnight, and the stars
Shone through the rents of ruin; from afar
The watch-dog bay'd beyond the Tiber; and
More near from out the Cæsar's palace came
The owl's long cry, and, interruptedly,
Of distant sentinels the fitful song
Begun and died upon the gentle wind.
Some cypresses beyond the time-worn breach
Appear'd to skirt the horizon, yet they stood
Within a bowshot.—Where the Cæsars dwelt,
And dwell the tuneless birds of night, amidst
A grove which springs through levell'd battlements,
And twines its roots with the imperial hearths,
Ivy usurps the laurel's place of growth;—
But the gladiators' bloody Circus stands,
A noble wreck in ruinous perfection!
While Cæsar's chambers, and the Augustan
Grovel on earth in indistinct decay.— [halls,
And thou didst shine, thou rolling moon, upon
All this; and cast a wide and tender light,
Which soften'd down the hoar austerity
Of rugged desolation, and filled up,
As 'twere anew, the gaps of centuries;
Leaving that beautiful which still was so,
And making that which was not, till the place
Became religion, and the heart ran o'er
With silent worship of the great of old! —
The dead, but sceptred sovereigns, who still
Our spirits from their urns.— [rule
'Twas such a night!
'Tis strange that I recall it at this time;
But I have found our thoughts take wildest flight
Even at the moment when they should array
Themselves in pensive order.

Enter the ABBOT.

Abbot. My good lord,
I crave a second grace for this approach;
But yet let not my humble zeal offend
By its abruptness—all it hath of ill
Recoils on me; it's good in the effect
May light upon your head—could I say *heart*—
Could I touch *that*, with words or prayers, I should
Recall a noble spirit which hath wander'd
But is not yet lost.
Man. Thou know'st me not:
My days are number'd, and my deeds recorded:
Retire, or 'twill be dangerous—Away!
Abbot. Thou dost not mean to menace me?
Man. Not I;
I simply tell thee peril is at hand
And would preserve thee.
Abbot. What dost thou mean?
Man. Look there!
What dost thou see?
Abbot. Nothing.
Man. Look there, I say,
And steadfastly;—now tell me what thou seest.
Abbot. That which should shake me—but I fear it not—
I see a dusk and awful figure rise,
Like an infernal god, from out the earth;
His face wrapt in a mantle, and his form
Robed as with angry clouds: he stands between
Thyself and me—but I do fear him not.
Man. Thou hast no cause—he shall not harm thee—but
His sight may shock thine old limbs into
I say to thee—Retire! [palsy.
Abbot. And I reply—
Never—till I have battled with this fiend;—
What doth he here?
Man. Why—ay—what doth he here?—
I did not send for him,—he is unbidden.
Abbot. Alas, lost mortal! what with guests like these
Hast thou to do? I tremble for thy sake:
Why doth he gaze on thee, and thou on him?
Ah! he unveils his aspect; on his brow
The thunder stars are graven; from his eye
Glares forth the immortality of hell—
Avaunt!
Man. Pronounce—what is thy mission?
Spirit. Come!
Abbot. What art thou, unknown being? answer!—speak!
Spirit. The genius of this mortal.—Come! 'tis time.

Man. I am prepared for all things, but deny
The power which summons me. Who sent thee here?
Spirit. Thou'lt known anon—Come! come!
Man. I have commanded
Things of an essence greater far than thine,
And striven with thy masters. Get thee hence! [I say.
Spirit. Mortal! thine hour is come—away!
Man. I knew, and know my hour is come,
To render up my soul to such as thee: [but not
Away! I'll die as I have lived—alone.
Spirit. Then I must summon up my brethren—Rise! [*Other Spirits rise up.*
Abbot. Avaunt, ye evil ones!—Avaunt! I say:—
Ye hath no power where piety hath power,
And I do charge ye in the name——
Spirit. Old man!
We know ourselves, our mission, and thine
Waste not thy holy words on idle uses, [order:
It were in vain: this man is forfeited.
Once more I summon him—Away! away!
Man. I do defy ye,—though I feel my soul
Is ebbing from me, yet I do defy ye;
Nor will I hence, while I have earthly breath
To breathe my scorn upon ye—earthly strength
To wrestle, though with spirits, what ye take
Shall be ta'en limb by limb.
Spirit. Reluctant mortal!
Is this the Magian who would so pervade
The world invisible, and make himself
Almost our equal?—Can it be that thou
Art thus in love with life? the very life
Which made thee wretched?
Man. Thou false fiend, thou liest!
My life is in its last hour,—*that* I know,
Nor would redeem a moment of that hour;
I do not combat against death, but thee
And thy surrounding angels; my past power
Was purchased by no compact with thy crew,
But by superior science—penance—daring—
And length of watching—strength of mind—and skill
In knowledge of our fathers—when the earth
Saw men and spirits walking side by side,
And gave ye no supremacy: I stand
Upon my strength—I do defy—deny—
Spurn back, and scorn ye!
Spirit. But thy many crimes
Have made thee—
Man. What are they to such as thee?
Must crimes be punish'd but by other crimes,
And greater criminals?—back to thy hell!
Thou hast no power upon me, *that* I feel;
Thou never shalt possess me, that I know:
What I have done is done: I bear within
A torture which could nothing gain from thine:
The mind which is immortal makes itself
Requital for its good or evil thoughts—
Is its own origin of ill and end—
And its own place and time—its innate sense,
When stripp'd of this mortality, derives
No color from the fleeting things without;
But is absorb'd in sufferance or in joy,
Born from the knowledge of its own desert.
Thou didst not tempt me, and thou couldst not tempt me;
I have not been thy dupe, nor am thy prey—
But was my own destroyer, and will be
My own hereafter.—Back, ye baffled fiends!
The hand of death is on me—but not yours! [*The Demons disappear.*
Abbot. Alas! how pale thou art—thy lips are white—
And thy breast heaves—and in thy gasping throat
The accents rattle—Give thy prayers to Heaven—
Pray—albeit but in thought—but die not thus.
Man. 'Tis over—my dull eyes can fix thee not;
But all things swim around me, and the earth
Heaves as it were beneath me. Fare thee well—
Give me thy hand.
Abbot. Cold—cold—even to the heart—
But yet one prayer—Alas! how fares it with thee?
Man. Old man! 'tis not so difficult to die. [Manfred *expires.*
Abbot. He's gone—his soul hath ta'en its earthless flight—
Whither? I dread to think—but he is gone.

MARINO FALIERO, DOGE OF VENICE:

AN HISTORICAL TRAGEDY.

IN FIVE ACTS.

1820.

"Dux inquieti turbidus Adriæ."—Horace.

PREFACE.

The conspiracy of the Doge Marino Faliero is one of the most remarkable events in the annals of the most singular government, city, and people of modern history. It occurred in the year 1355. Everything about Venice is, or was, extraordinary—her aspect is like a dream, and her history is like a romance. The story of this Doge is to be found in all her Chronicles, and particularly detailed in the "Lives of the Doges," by Marin Sanuta, which is given in the Appendix. It is simply and clearly related, and is perhaps more dramatic in itself than any which can be founded upon the subject.

Marino Faliero appears to have been a man of talents and of courage. I find him commander-in-chief of the land forces at the siege of Zara, where he beat the King of Hungary and his army of eighty thousand men, killing eight thousand men, and keeping the besieged at the same time in check; an exploit to which I know none similar in history, except that of Cæsar at Alesia, and of Prince Eugene at Belgrade. He was afterwards commander of the fleet in the same war. He took Capo d'Istria. He was ambassador at Genoa and Rome, at which last he received the news of his election to the dukedom; his absence being a proof that he sought it by no intrigue, since he was apprised of his predecessor's death and his own succession at the same moment. But he appears to have been of an ungovernable temper. A story is told by Sanuto, of his having, many years before, when podesta and captain at Treviso, boxed the ears of the bishop, who was somewhat tardy in bringing the Host. For this, honest Sanuto "saddles him with a judgment," as Thwackum did Square, but he does not tell us whether he was punished or rebuked by the Senate for this outrage at the time of its commission. He seems, indeed, to have been afterwards at peace with the church, for we find him ambassador at Rome, and invested with the fief of Val di Marino, in the march of Treviso, and with the title of count, by Lorenzo Count-bishop of Ceneda. For these facts my authorities are Sanuto, Vettor Sandi, Andrea Navagero, and the account of the siege of Zara, first published by the indefatigable Abate Morelli, in his "Monumenti, Veneziani di varia Letteratura," printed in 1796, all of which I have looked over in the original language. The moderns, Daru, Sismondi, and Laugier, nearly agree with the ancient chroniclers. Sismondi attributes the conspiracy to his jealousy: but I find this nowhere asserted by the national historians. Vettor Sandi, indeed, says, that "Altri scrissero che . . . . dalla gelosa suspizion di esso Doge siasi fatto Michael Steno stacear con violenza," etc., etc.: but this appears also to have been by no means the general opinion, nor is it alluded to by Sanuto, or by Navagero and Sandi himself adds, a moment after, that "per altre Venezziane memorie trasparì, che non il solo desiderio di vendetta lo dispose alla congiura ma anche la innata abituale ambizion sua, per cui anelava a farsi principe indipendente." The first motive appears to have been excited by the gross affront of the words written by Michael Steno on the ducal chair, and by the light and inadequate sentence of the Forty on the offender, who was one of their "tre Capi." The attentions of Steno himself appear to have been directed towards one of her damsels, and not the "Dogaressi" herself, against whose fame not the slightest insinuation appears, while she is praised for her beauty, and remarked for her youth. Neither do I find it asserted (unless the hint of Sandi be an assertion), that the Doge was actuated by jealousy of his wife; but rather by respect for her, and for his own honor, warranted by his past services and present dignity.

I know not that the historical facts are alluded to in English, unless by Dr. Moore in his view of Italy. His account is false and flippant, full of stale jests about old men and young wives, and wondering at so great an effect from so slight a cause. How so acute and severe an observer of mankind as the author of Zeluco could wonder at this is inconceivable. He knew that a basin of water spilt on Mrs. Masham's gown deprived the Duke of Marlborough of his command, and lead to the inglorious peace of Utrecht—that Louis XIV. was plunged into the most desolating wars, because his minister was nettled at his finding fault with a window, and wished to give him another occupation—that Helen lost Troy—that Lucretia expelled the Tarquins from Rome—and that Cava brought the Arabs to Spain—that an insulted husband led the Gauls to Clusium, and thence to Rome—that a single verse of Frederick II. of Prussia, on the Abbe de Bernis, and jest on Madame de Pompadour, led to the battle of Rosbach—that the elopement of Dearbhorgil with MacMurchad conducted the English to the slavery of Ireland—that a personal pique between Maria Antoinette and the Duke of Orleans precipitated the first expulsion of the Bourbons—and, not to multiply instances, that Commodus, Domitian, and Caligula fell victims not to their public tyranny, but to private vengeance—and that an order to make Cromwell disembark from the ship in which he would have sailed to America destroyed both King and Commonwealth. After these instances, on the least recollection, it is indeed extraordinary in Dr. Moore to seem surprised that a man used to command, who had served and swayed in the most important offices, should fiercely resent, in a fierce age, an unpunished affront, the grossest that can be offered to a man, be he prince or peasant. The age of Faliero is little to the purpose, unless to favor it,—

> "The young man's wrath is like straw on fire,
> But like red-hot steel is the old man's ire."
>
> "Young men soon give and soon forget affronts,
> Old age is slow at both."

Laugier's reflections are more philosophical.* "Tale fu il fine ignominioso di un' uomo, che la sua nascita, la sua eta, il suo carattere dovevano tener lontano dalle passioni produttrici di grandi delitti. I suoi talenti per lungo tempo esercitati ne' maggiori impieghi, la sua capacita sperimentata ne' governi e nelle ambascerie, ghavevano acquistato la stima e la fiducia de' cittadini, ed avevano uniti i suffragi per collocarlo alla testa della repubblica. Innalzato ad un grado che terminava gloriosamente la sua vita, il risentimento di un' ingiuria leggiera insinuo nel suo cuore tal valeno che basto a corrompere le antiche sue qualita, e a condurlo al termine dei scellerati; serio esempio, che prova non esservi eta, in cui la prudenza umana sia sicura, e che nelt' uomo restano sempre passioni capaci a disonorarlo, quando non invigili sopra se stesso."

Where did Dr. Moore find that Marino Faliero begged his life? I have searched the chroniclers, and find nothing of the kind: it is true that he avowed all. He was conducted to the place of torture, but there is no mention made of any application for mercy on his part; and the very circumstance of their having taken him to the rack seems to argue anything but his having shown a want of firmness, which would doubtless have been also mentioned by those minute historians, who by no means favor him; such, indeed, would be contrary to his character as a soldier, to the age in which he lived, and at which he died, as it is to the truth of history. I know no justification, at any distance of time, for calumniating an historical character; surely truth belongs to the dead and to the unfortunate: and they who have died upon a scaffold have generally had faults enough of their own, without attributing to them that which the very incurring of the perils which conducted them to their victim death renders, of all others, the most improbable. The black veil which is painted over the place of Marino Faliero amongst the Doges, and the Giants' staircase where he was crowned, and discrowned, and decapitated, struck forcibly upon my imagination; as did his fiery character and strange story. I went, in 1819, in search of his tomb more than once to the church San Giovanni e San Paolo; and, as I was standing before the monument of another family, a priest came up to me and said: "I can show you finer monuments than that." I told him that I was in search of that of the Faliero family, and particularly of the Doge Marino's. "Oh," said he, "I will show it you": and conducting me to the outside, pointed out a sarcophagus in the wall with an illegible inscription. He said that it had been in a convent adjoining, but was removed after the French came, and placed in its present situation, that he had seen the tomb opened at its removal: there were still some bones remaining, but no positive vestige of the decapitation. The equestrian statue of which I have made mention in the third act as before that church is not, however, of a Faliero, but of some other now obsolete warrior, although of a later date. There were two other Doges of this family prior to Marino, Ordelafo, who fell in battle at Zara, in 1117 (where his descendant afterwards conquered the Huns), and Vital Faliero, who reigned in 1082. The family, originally from Fano, was of the most illustrious in blood and wealth in the city of once the most wealthy and still the most ancient families in Europe. The length I have gone into on the subject will show the interest I have taken in it. Whether I have succeeded or not in the tragedy, I have at least transferred into our language an historical fact worthy of commemoration.

It is now four years that I have meditated this work; and before I had sufficiently examined the records, I was rather disposed to have made it turn on a jealousy in Faliero. But, perceiving no foundation for this in history, and aware that jealousy is an exhausted passion in the drama, I have given it a more historical form. I was, besides, well advised by the late Matthew Lewis on that point, in talking with him of my intention at Venice in 1817. "If you make him jealous," said he, "recollect that you have to contend with established writers, to say nothing of Shakespeare, and an exhausted subject: stick to the old fiery Doge's natural character."

* Laugier, Hist. de la Repub. de Venise. Vol. iv. p. 30.

ter, which will bear you out, if properly drawn: and make your plot as regular as you can." Sir William Drummond gave me nearly the same counsel. How far I have followed these instructions, or whether they have availed me, is not for me to decide. I have had no view to the stage; in its present state it is, perhaps, not a very exalted object of ambition; besides, I have been too much behind the scenes to have thought it so at any time. And I cannot conceive any man of irritable feeling putting himself at the mercies of an audience. The sneering reader, and the loud critic, and the tart review, are scattered and distant calamities; but the trampling of an intelligent or of an ignorant audience on a production which, be it good or bad, has been a mental labor to the writer, is a palpable and immediate grievance, heightened by a man's doubt of competency to judge, and his certainty of his own imprudence in electing them his judges. Were I capable of writing a play which could be deemed stage-worthy, success would give me no pleasure, and failure great pain. It is for this reason that, even during the time of being one of the committee of one of the theatres, I never made the attempt, and never will. But surely there is dramatic power somewhere, where Joanna Baillie, and Milman, and John Wilson exist. The "City of the Plague" and the "Fall of Jerusalem" are full of the best material for tragedy that has been seen since Horace Walpole, except passages of Ethwald and De Montfort. It is the fashion to underrate Horace Walpole—firstly, because he was a nobleman; and secondly, because he was a gentleman; but to say nothing of the composition of his incomparable letters, and of the "Castle of Otranto," he is the "ultimus Romanorum," the author of the "Mysterious Mother," a tragedy of the highest order, and not a puling love-play. He is the father of the first romance and of the last tragedy in our language, and surely worthy of a higher place than any living writer, be he who he may.

In speaking of the drama of "Marino Faliero," I forgot to mention, that the desire of preserving though still too remote, a nearer approach to unity than the irregularity, which is the reproach of the English theatrical compositions, permits, has induced me to represent the conspiracy as already formed, and the Doge acceding to it; whereas, in fact, it was of his own preparation, and that of Israel Bertuccio. The other characters (except that of the Duchess), incidents, and almost the time, which was wonderfully short for such a design in real life, are strictly historical, except that all the consultations took place in the palace. Had I followed this, the unity would have been better preserved; but I wished to produce the Doge in the full assembly of the conspirators, instead of monotonously placing him always in dialogue with the same individuals. For the real facts, I refer to the Appendix.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MEN.

Marino Faliero, *Doge of Venice.*
Bertuccio Faliero, *Nephew of the Doge.*
Lioni, *a Patrician and Senator.*
Benintende, *Chief of the Council of Ten.*
Michael Steno, *One of the three Capi of the Forty.*
Israel Bertuccio, Philip Calendaro, Dagolino, Bertram, *Chief of the Arsenal, conspirators.*
Signor of the Night, "*Signore di Notte,*" *one of the Officers belonging to the Republic.*
First Citizen.
Second Citizen.
Third Citizen.
Vincenzo, Pietro, Battista, *Officers belonging to the Ducal Palace.*
Secretary of the Council of Ten.
Guards, Conspirators, Citizens, The Council of Ten, The Giunta, etc., etc.

WOMEN.

Angiolina, *Wife to the Doge.*
Marianna, *her Friend.*
Female Attendants, etc.

Scene,—Venice. *In the year,* 1355.

ACT I.

Scene I.—*An Antechamber in the Ducal Palace.*

Pietro *speaks, in entering, to* Battista.

Pie. Is not the messenger return'd?
Bat. Not yet;
I have sent frequently, as you commanded,
But still the Signory is deep in council.
And a long debate on Steno's accusation.*
Pie. Too long—at least so thinks the Doge.
Bat. How bears he
These moments of suspense?
Pie. With struggling patience,
Placed at the ducal table, cover'd o'er
With all the apparel of the state; petitions,
Despatches, judgments, acts, reprieves, reports,
He sits as rapt in duty; but whene'er
He hears the jarring of a distant door,
Or aught that intimates a coming step,
Or murmur of a voice, his quick eye wanders,
And he will start up from his chair, then pause,
And seat himself again, and fix his gaze
Upon some edict; but I have observed
For the last hour he has not turn'd a leaf.
Bat. 'Tis said he is much moved,—and doubtless 'twas
Foul scorn in Steno to offend so grossly.
Pie. Ay, if a poor man: Steno's a patrician,
Young, galliard, gay and haughty.
Bat. Then you think
He will not be judged hardly?
Pie. 'Twere enough
He be judged justly; but 'tis not for us
To anticipate the sentence of the Forty.
Bat. And here it comes.—What news, Vincenzo?

Enter Vincenzo.

Vin. 'Tis
Decided; but as yet his doom's unknown;
I saw the president in act to seal [judgment
The parchment which will bear the Forty's
Unto the Doge, and hasten to inform him.
[*Exeunt.*

Scene II.—*The Ducal Chamber.*

Marino Faliero, *Doge; and his Nephew,* Bertuccio Faliero.

Ber. F. It cannot be but they will do you justice.

* See Appendix, Note A.

Doge. Ay, such as the Avogadori* did,
Who sent up my appeal unto the Forty
To try him by his peers, his own tribunal.
Ber. F. His peers will scarce protect him; such an act
Would bring contempt on all authority.
Doge. Know you not Venice? Know you not the Forty?
But we shall see anon.
Ber. F. [*addressing* VINCENZO, *then entering.*] How now—what tidings?
Vin. I am charged to tell his highness that the court
Has pass'd its resolution, and that, soon
As the due forms of judgment are gone through,
The sentence will be sent up to the Doge;
In the mean time the Forty doth salute
The Prince of the Republic, and entreat
His acceptation of their duty.
Doge. Yes—
They are wondrous dutiful, and ever humble.
Sentence is pass'd, you say?
Vin. It is, your highness:
The president was sealing it, when I
Was call'd in, that no moment might be lost
In forwarding the intimation due
Not only to the Chief of the Republic,
But the complainant, both in one united.
Ber. F. Are you aware, from aught you have perceived,
Of their decision?
Vin. No, my lord: you know
The secret custom of the courts in Venice.
Ber. F. True; but there is still something given to guess at;
Which a shrewd gleaner or a quick eye would catch
A whisper, or a murmur, or an air
More or less solemn spread o'er the tribunal.
The Forty are but men—most worthy men,
And wise, and just, and cautious—this I grant—
And secret as the grave to which they doom
The guilty; but with all this, in their aspects—
At least in some, the juniors of the number—
A searching eye, an eye like yours, Vincenzo,
Would read the sentence ere it was pronounced.
Vin. My lord, I came away upon the moment.
And had no leisure to take note of that during:
Which pass'd among the judges, even in seeming
My station near the accused too, Michael Steno,
Made me—
Doge. [*abruptly.*] And how look'd *he?*
Vin. Calm but not overcast, he stood resigned
To the decree, whate'er it were:—but lo!
It comes, for the perusal of his highness.

Enter the SECRETARY *of the Forty.*

Sec. The high tribunal of the Forty sends
Health and respect to the Doge Faliero,
Chief Magistrate of Venice, and requests
His highness to peruse and approve
The sentence pass'd on Michael Steno, born
Patrician, and arraign'd upon the charge
Contain'd, together with its penalty,
Within the rescript which I now present.
Doge. Retire, and wait without. Take thou this paper:

[*Exeunt* SECRETARY *and* VINCENZO.

The misty letters vanish from my eyes;
I cannot fix them.
Ber. F. Patience, my dear uncle:
Why do you tremble thus?—nay, doubt not, all
Will be as could be wish'd.
Doge. Say on.
Ber. F. [*reading*]. "Decreed
In council, without one dissenting voice,
That Michel Steno, by his own confession,
Guilty on the last night of Carnival
Of having graven on the ducal throne
The following words—"
Doge. Would'st thou repeat them?
Wouldst *thou* repeat them—*thou*, a Faliero,
Harp on the deep dishonor of our house,
Dishonor'd in its chief—that chief the prince
Of Venice, first of cities?—To the sentence.
Ber. F. Forgive me, my good lord; I will obey— [month
[*Reads*] "That Michel Steno be detain'd a
In close arrest."
Doge. Proceed.
Ber. F. My lord, 'tis finished.
Doge. How say you?—finish'd! Do I dream?—'tis false—
Give me the paper—[*Snatches the paper and reads*]— "'Tis decreed in council
That Michel Steno—" Nephew, thine arm!
Ber. F. Nay,
Cheer up, be calm; this transport is uncall'd
Let me seek some assistance, [for—
Doge. Stop, sir—stir not—
'Tis past.
Ber. F. I cannot but agree with you
The sentence is too slight for the offence—
It is not honorable in the Forty
To affix so slight a penalty as that
Which was a foul affront to you, and even
To them, as being your subjects; but 'tis not
Yet without remedy: you can appeal
To them once more, or to the Avogadori,
Who, seeing that true justice is withheld,
Will now take up the cause they once declin'd,
And do you right upon the bold delinquent.
Think you not thus, good uncle? why do you stand [me.
So fix'd? You heed me not:—I pray you hear
Doge. [*dashing down the ducal bonnet, and offering to trample upon it, exclaims, as he is withheld by his nephew,*]—
Oh! that the Saracen were in St. Mark's!
Thus would I do him homage.
Ber. F. For the sake
Of Heaven and all its saints, my lord—
Doge. Away!
Oh, that the Genoese were in the port!
Oh, that the Huns whom I o'erthrew at Zara
Were ranged around the palace!
Ber. F. 'Tis not well

* The Avogadori were the three conductors of criminal prosecutions on the part of the state.

In Venice' Duke to say so.
Doge. Venice' Duke!
Who now is Duke in Venice? let me see him,
That he may do me right.
Ber. F. If you forget
Your office, and its dignity and duty,
Remember that of man, and curb this passion.
The Duke of Venice—
Doge. [*interrupting him.*] There is no such thing—
It is a word—nay, worse—a worthless by-word:
The most despised, wrong'd, outraged, helpless wretch,
Who begs his bread, if 'tis refused by one,
May win it from another kinder heart;
But he, who is denied his right by those
Whose place it is to do no wrong, is poorer
Than the rejected beggar—he's a slave—
And that am I, and thou, and all our house,
Even from this hour; the meanest artisan
Will point the finger, and the haughty noble
May spit upon us:—where is our redress?
Ber. F. The law, my prince—
Doge. [*interrupting him.*] You see what it has done:
I ask'd no remedy but from the law,—
I sought no vengeance but redress by law,—
I call'd no judges but those named by law,—
As sovereign, I appeal'd unto my subjects,
The very subjects who had made me sovereign,
And gave me thus a double right to be so.
The rights of place and choice, of birth and service, [hairs,
Honors and years, these scars, these hoary
The travel, toil, the perils, the fatigues,
The blood and sweat of almost eighty years,
Were weigh'd i' the balance 'gainst the foulest stain,
The grossest insult, most contemptuous crime
Of a rank, rash patrician—and found wanting!
And this is to be borne!
Ber. F. I say not that:—
In case your fresh appeal should be rejected,
We will find other means to make all even.
Doge. Appeal again! art thou my brother's son?
A scion of the house of Faliero?
The nephew of a Doge? and of that blood
Which hath already given three dukes to Venice?
But thou say'st well—we must be humble now,
Ber. F. My princely uncle! you are too much moved;—
I grant it was a gross offence, and grossly
Left without fitting punishment: but still
This fury doth exceed the provocation,
Or any provocation: if we are wrong'd,
We will ask justice: if it be denied,
We'll take it; but may do all this in calmness—
Deep Vengeance is the daughter of deep Silence.
I have yet scarce a third part of your years,
I love our house, I honor you, its chief,
The guardian of my youth, and its instructor—
But though I understand your grief, and enter
In part of your disdain, it doth appal me
To see your anger, like our Adrian waves,
O'ersweep all bounds, and foam itself to air.
Doge. I tell thee—*must* I tell thee—what thy father [hend?
Would have required no words to compre-
Hast thou no feeling save the external sense
Of torture from the torch? hast thou no soul— [honor?
No pride—no passion—no deep sense of
Ber. F. 'Tis the first time that honor has been doubted,
And were the last, from any other sceptic.
Doge. You know the full offence of this born villain,
This creeping, coward, rank, acquitted felon,
Who threw his sting into a poisonous libel,
And on the honor of—Oh God!—my wife,
The nearest, dearest part of all men's honor,
Left a base slur to pass from mouth to mouth
Of loose mechanics, with all coarse foul comments,
And villanous jests, and blasphemies obscene:
While sneering nobles, in more polish'd guise,
Whisper'd the tale, and smiled upon the lie
Which made me look like them—a courteous wittol,
Patient—ay, proud, it may be, of dishonor.
Ber. F. But still it was a lie—you knew it false,
And so did all men.
Doge. Nephew, the high Roman
Said, "Cæsar's wife must not even be suspected,"
And put her from him.
Ber. F. True—but in those days—
Doge. What is it that a Roman would not suffer, [dolo
That a Venetian prince must bear? old Dan-
Refused the diadem of all the Cæsars,
And wore the ducal cap I trample on,
Because 'tis now degraded.
Ber. F. 'Tis even so.
Doge. It is—it is;—I did not visit on
The innocent creature thus most vilely slander'd
Because she took an old man for her lord,
For that he had been long her father's friend
And patron of her house, as if there were
No love in woman's heart but lust of youth
And beardless faces;—I did not for this
Visit the villain's infamy on her,
But craved my country's justice on his head,
The justice due unto the humblest being
Who hath a wife whose faith is sweet to him,
Who hath a home whose hearth is dear to him,
Who hath a name whose honor's all to him,
When these are tainted by the accusing breath
Of calumny and scorn.
Ber. F. And what redress
Did you expect as fit his punishment?
Doge. Death! Was I not the Sovereign of the State—
Insulted on his very throne, and made
A mockery to the men who should obey me?
Was I not injured as a husband? scorned
As man? reviled, degraded, as a prince?

Was not offence like his a complication
Of insult and of treason?—and he lives!
Had he, instead of on the Doge's throne,
Stamp'd the same brand upon a peasant's stool,
His blood had gilt the threshold, for the carle
Had stabb'd him on the instant.

Ber. F. Do not doubt it,
He shall not live till sunset—leave to me
The means, and calm yourself.

Doge. Hold, nephew: this
Would have sufficed but yesterday; at present
I have no further wrath against this man.

Ber. F. What mean you? is not the offence redoubled
By this most rank—I will not say—acquittal;
Nor it is worse, being full acknowledgment
Of the offence, and leaving it unpunish'd?

Doge. It is *redoubled*, but not now by him
The Forty hath decreed a month's arrest—
We must obey the Forty.

Ber. F. Obey *them!*
Who have forgot their duty to the sovereign?

Doge. Why yes;—boy, you perceive it then at last?
Whether as fellow-citizen who sues
For justice, or as sovereign who commands it,
They have defrauded me of both my rights
For here the Sovereign is a citizen);
But, notwithstanding, harm not thou a hair
Of Steno's head—he shall not wear it long.

Ber. F. Not twelve hours longer, had you left to me [me,
The mode and means: if you had calmly heard
I never meant this miscreant should escape,
But wish'd you to suppress such gusts of passion,
That we more surely might devise together
His taking off.

Doge. No, nephew, he must live:
At least, just now—a life so vile as his
Were nothing at this hour: in the olden time
Some sacrifices ask'd a single victim,
Great expiations had a hecatomb. [fain

Ber. F. Your wishes are my law: and yet I
Would prove to you how near unto my heart
The honor of our house must ever be.

Doge. Fear not; you shall have time and place of proof:
But be not thou too rash, as I have been.
I am ashamed of my own anger now;
I pray you, pardon me.

Ber. F. Why, that's my uncle!
The leader and the statesman, and the chief
Of commonwealths and sovereign of himself!
I wonder'd to perceive you so forget
All prudence in your fury at these years,
Although the cause—

Doge. Ay, think upon the cause—
Forget it not:—when you lie down to rest,
Let it be black among your dreams; and when
The morn returns, so let it stand between
The sun and you, as an ill-omen'd cloud
Upon a summer day of festival:
So it will stand to me;—but speak not, stir not,—
Leave all to me;—we shall have much to do,
And you shall have a part.—But now retire,
'Tis fit I were alone.

Ber. F. [*taking up and placing the ducal bonnet on the table.*] Ere I depart,
I pray you to resume what you have spurn'd,
Till you can change it haply for a crown.
And now I take my leave, imploring you
In all things to rely upon my duty
As doth become your near and faithful kins-
And not less loyal citizen and subject. [man,

[*Exit* BERTUCCIO FALIERO.

Doge. [*solus*]. Adieu, my worthy nephew.—
Hollow bauble!
[*Taking up the ducal cap.*
Beset with all the thorns that line a crown,
Without investing the insulted brow
With the all-swaying majesty of kings;
Thou idle, gilded, and degraded toy,
Let me resume thee as I would a vizor.
[*Puts it on.*
How my brain aches beneath thee! and my temples
Throb feverish under thy dishonest weight.
Could I not turn thee to a diadem?
Could I not shatter the Briarean sceptre
Which in this hundred-handed senate rules,
Making the people nothing, and the prince
A pageant? In my life I have achieved
Tasks not less difficult—achieved for them,
Who thus repay me!—Can I not requite them?
Oh for one year Oh! but for even a day
Of my full youth, while yet my body served
My soul as serves the generous steed his lord,
I would have dash'd amongst them, asking few
In aid to overthrow these swoln patricians;
But now I must look round for other hands
To serve this hoary head;—but it shall plan
In such a sort as will not leave the task
Herculean, though as yet 'tis but a chaos
Of darkly brooding thoughts: my fancy is
In her first work, more nearly to the light
Holding the sleeping images of things,
For the selection of the pausing judgment,—
The troops are few in——

Enter VINCENZO.

Vin. There is one without
Craves an audience of your highness.

Doge. I'm unwell—
I can see no one, not even a patrician—
Let him refer his business to the council.

Vin. My lord, I will deliver your reply;
It cannot much import—he's a plebeian,
The master of a galley, I believe. [ley?

Doge. How! did you say the patron of a gal-
That is—I mean—a servant of the State!
Admit him, he may be on public service.
[*Exit* VINCENZO.

Doge. [*solus.*] This patron may be sounded;
I will try him.
I know the people to be discontented!
They have cause, since Sapienza's adverse day,
When Genoa conquer'd: they have further cause

Since they are nothing in the state, and in
The city worse than nothing—mere machines
To serve the nobles' most patrician pleasure.
The troops have long arrears of pay, oft promised,
And murmur deeply—any hope of change
Will draw them forward: they shall pay themselves [priesthood
With plunder!—but the priests—I doubt the
Will not be with us; they have hated me
Since that rash hour, when, madden'd with the drone,*
I smote the tardy bishop at Treviso,
Quickening his holy march; yet, ne'ertheless,
They may be won, at least their chief at Rome,
By some well-timed concessions; but, above
All things, I must be speedy; at my hour
Of twilight, little light of life remains.
Could I free Venice, and avenge my wrongs,
I had lived too long, and willingly would sleep
Next moment with my sires; and, wanting this,
Better that sixty of my fourscore years [not—
Had been already where—how soon, I care
The whole must be extinguish'd—better that
They ne'er had been, than drag me on to be
The thing these arch-oppressors fain would make me.
Let me consider—of efficient troops
There are three thousand posted at——

Enter VINCENZO *and* ISRAEL BERTUCCIO.

Vin. May it please
Your highness, the same patron whom I spake
Is here to crave your patience. [of
Doge. Leave the chamber, Vincenzo.— [*Exit* VINCENZO.
Sir, you may advance—what would you?
I. Ber. Redress.
Doge. Of whom?
I. Ber. Of God and of the Doge.
Doge. Alas! my friend, you seek it of the
Of least respect and interest in Venice. [twain
I. Ber. 'Twere in vain;
For he who injured me is one of them.
Doge. There's blood upon thy face—how came it there? [shed for Venice,
I. Ber. 'Tis mine, and not the first I've
But the first shed by a Venetian hand:
A noble smote me.
Doge. Doth he live?
I. Ber. Not long—
But for the hope I had and have, that you,
My prince, yourself a soldier, will redress
Him, whom the laws of discipline and Venice
Permit not to protect himself:—if not—
I say no more.
Doge. But something you would do—
Is it not so?
I. Ber. I am a man, my lord.
Doge. Why so is he who smote you.
I. Ber. He is call'd so;
Nay, more, a noble one—at least, in Venice!
But since he hath forgotten that I am one,
And treats me like a brute, the brute may turn—
'Tis said the worm will.
Doge. Say—his name and lineage?
I. Ber. Barbaro.
Doge. What was the cause? or the pretext?
I. Ber. I am the chief of the arsenal, em-
At present in repairing certain galleys [ploy'd
But roughly used by the Genoese last year.
This morning comes the noble Barbaro
Full of reproof, because our artisans
Had left some frivolous order of his house,
To execute the state's decree; I dared
To justify the men—he raised his hand:—
Behold my blood! the first time it ere flow'd
Dishonorably.
Doge. Have you long time served?
I. Ber. So long as to remember Zara's siege, [Huns there,
And fight beneath the chief who beat the
Sometime my general, now the Doge Faliero—
Doge. How! are we comrades? the state's ducal robes
Sit newly on me, and you were appointed
Chief of the arsenal ere I came from Rome;
So that I recognized you not. Who placed you?
I. Ber. The late Doge; keeping still my old command
As patron of a galley: my new office
Was given as a reward of certain scars
(So was your predecessor pleased to say):
I little thought his bounty would conduct me
To his successor as a helpless plaintiff;
At least, in such a cause.
Doge. Are you much hurt?
I. Ber. Irreparably in my self-esteem.
Doge. Speak out, fear nothing; being stung at heart,
What would you do to be revenged on this man?
I. Ber. That which I dare not name, and yet will do.
Doge. Then wherefore came you here?
I. Ber. I come for justice,
Because my general is Doge, and will not
See his old soldier trampled on. Had any,
Save Faliero, fill'd the ducal throne,
This blood had been wash'd out in other blood.
Doge. You come to me for justice—unto *me!*
The Doge of Venice, and I cannot give it;
I cannot even obtain it—'twas denied
To me most solemnly an hour ago!
I. Ber. How says your highness?
Doge. Steno is condemn'd
To a month's confinement.
I. Ber. What! the same who dared
To stain the ducal throne with those foul words,
That have cried shame to every ear in Venice?
Doge. Ay, doubtless, they have echo'd o'er the arsenal,
Keeping due time with every hammer's clink
As a good jest to jolly artisans,
Or making chorus to the creaking oar,
In the vile tune of every galley-slave,
Who, as he sang the merry stave, exulted
He was not a shamed dotard like the Doge.

* An historical fact. See Marin Sanuto's "Life of the Doges."

I. Ber. Is't possible? a month's imprisonment!
No more for Steno?
Doge. You have heard the offence,
And now you know his punishment; and then
You ask redress of *me!* Go to the Forty,
Who passed the sentence upon Michel Steno;
They'll do as much by Barbaro, no doubt.
I. Ber. Ah! dared I speak my feelings!
Doge. Give them breath.
Mine have no further outrage to endure.
I. Ber. Then in a word, it rests but on your
To punish and avenge—I will not say [word
My petty wrong, for what is a mere blow,
However vile, to such a thing as I am?—
But the base insult done your state and person.
Doge. You overrate my power, which is a pageant. [robes
This cap is not the monarch's crown; these
Might move compassion, like a beggar's rags;
Nay, more, a beggar's are his own, and these
But lent to a poor puppet, who must play
Its part with all its empire in this ermine.
I. Ber. Wouldst thou be a king?
Doge. Yes—of a happy people.
I. Ber. Wouldst thou be sovereign lord of Venice?
Doge. Ay,
If that the people shared that sovereignty,
So that nor they nor I were further slaves
To this o'ergrown aristocratic Hydra, [body
The poisonous heads of whose envenom'd
Have breathed a pestilence upon us all.
I. Ber. Yet, thou wast born, and still hast lived, patrician.
Doge. In evil hour was I so born; my birth
Hath made me Doge to be insulted: but
I lived and toil'd a soldier and a servant
Of Venice and her people, not the senate;
Their good and my own honor were my guerdon. [conquer'd
I have fought and bled; commanded, ay, and
Have made and marr'd peace oft in embassies,
As it might chance to be our country's 'vantage;
Have traversed land and sea in constant duty,
Through almost sixty years, and still for Venice [spire
My fathers' and my birthplace, whose dear
Rising at distance o'er the blue Lagoon,
It was reward enough for me to view
Once more; but not for any knot of men,
Nor sect, nor faction, did I bleed or sweat!
But would you know why I have done all this?
Ask of the bleeding pelican why she
Hath ripp'd her bosom? Had the bird a voice,
She'd tell thee 'twas for *all* her little ones.
I. Ber. And yet they made thee duke.
Doge. *They made* me so;
I sought it not, the flattering fetters met me
Returning from my Roman embassy;
And never having hitherto refused
Toil, charge, or duty for the state, I did not,
All these late years, decline what was the highest
Of all in seeming, but of all most base
In what we have to do and to endure:
Bear witness for me thou, my injured subject,
When I can neither right myself nor thee.
I. Ber. You shall do both, if you possess the will;
And many thousands more not less oppress'd
Who wait but for a signal—will you give it?
Doge. You speak in riddles.
I. Ber. Which shall soon be read
At peril of my life, if you disdain not
To lend a patient ear.
Doge. Say on.
I. Ber. Not thou,
Nor I alone, are injured and abused,
Contemn'd and trampled on; but the whole people [wrongs;
Groan with the strong conception of their
The foreign soldiers in the senate's pay
Are discontented for their long arrears;
The native mariners, and civic troops,
Feel with their friends; for who is he amongst them [sisters,
Whose brethren, parents, children, wives or
Have not partook oppression, or pollution,
From the patricians? And the hopeless war
Against the Genoese, which is still maintain'd
With the plebeian blood, and treasure wrung
From their hard earnings, has inflamed them further:
Even now—but, I forget that speaking thus,
Perhaps I pass the sentence of my death!
Doge And suffering what thou hast done—fear'st thou death?
Be silent then, and live on, to be beaten
By those for whom thou hast bled.
I. Ber. No, I will speak
At every hazard; and if Venice' Doge
Should turn delator, be the shame on him,
And sorrow too; for he will lose far more
Than I.
Doge. From me fear nothing; out with it!
I. Ber. Know then, that there are met and sworn in secret
A band of brethren, valiant hearts and true;
Men who have proved all fortunes, and have long
Grieved over that of Venice, and have right
To do so; having served her in all climes,
And having rescued her from foreign foes,
Would do the same from those within her walls.
They are not numerous, nor yet too few
For their great purpose; they have arms, and means, [courage.
And hearts, and hopes, and faith, and patient
Doge. For what then do they pause?
I. Ber. An hour to strike.
Doge. [*aside.*] Saint Mark's shall strike that hour!*
I. Ber. I now have placed
My life, my honor, all my earthly hopes
Within thy power, but in the firm belief

* The bells of San Marco were never rung but by order of the Doge. One of the pretexts for ringing this alarm was to have been an announcement of the appearance of a Genoese fleet off the Lagune.

That injuries like ours, sprung from one cause,
Will generate one vengeance : should it be so,
Be our chief now—our sovereign hereafter.
Doge. How many are ye ?
I. Ber. I'll not answer that
Till I am answer'd.
Doge. How, sir ! Do you menace ?
I. Ber. No ; I affirm. I have betray'd myself ;
But there's no torture in the mystic wells
Which undermine your palace, nor in those
Not less appalling cells, the "leaden roofs,"
To force a single name from me of others,
The Pozzi and the Piombi were in vain ;
They might wring blood from me, but treachery never. [Sighs,"
And I could pass the fearful "Bridge of
Joyous that mine must be the last that e'er
Would echo o'er the Stygian wave which flows
Between the murderers and the murder'd, washing
The prison and the palace walls : there are
Those who would live to think on't and avenge me. [come here
Doge. If such your power and purpose, why
To sue for justice, being in the course
To do yourself due right ?
I. Ber. Because the man
Who claims protection from authority,
Showing his confidence and his submission
To that authority, can hardly be
Suspected of combining to destroy it.
Had I sat, down too humbly with this blow,
A moody brow and mutter'd threats had made me
A mark'd man to the Forty's inquisition ;
But loud complaint, however angrily
It shapes its phrase, is little to be fear'd,
And less distrusted. But, besides all this,
I had another reason.
Doge. What was that ?
I. Ber. Some rumors that the Doge was greatly moved
By the reference of the Avogadori
Of Michel Steno's sentence to the Forty
Had reach'd me. I had served you, honor'd you,
And felt that you were dangerously insulted,
Being of an order of such spirits, as
Requite tenfold both good and evil : 'twas
My wish to prove and urge you to redress.
Now you know all : and that I speak the truth,
My peril be the proof.
Doge. You have deeply ventured ;
But all must do so who would greatly win :
Thus far I'll answer you—your secret's safe.
I. Ber. And is this all ?
Doge. Unless with all intrusted,
What would you have me answer ?
I. Ber. I would have you
Trust him who leaves his life in trust with you.
Doge. But I must know your plan, your names, and numbers ; [former
The last may then be doubled, and the
Matur'd and strengthened.
I. Ber. We're enough already ;
You are the sole ally we covet now.
Doge. But bring me to the knowledge of your chiefs. [mal pledge
I. Ber. That shall be done upon your for-
To keep the faith that we will pledge to you.
Doge. When ? where ? [ment
I. Ber. This night I'll bring to your apart-
Two of the principals : a greater number
Were hazardous.
Doge. Stay, I must think of this.—
What if I were to trust myself amongst you,
And leave the palace ?
I. Ber. You must come alone.
Doge. With but my nephew.
I. Ber. Not were he your son.
Doge. Wretch ! darest thou name my son ?
He died in arms
At Sapienza for this faithless state.
Oh ! that he were alive, and I in ashes—
Or that he were alive ere I be ashes !
I should not need the dubious aid of strangers.
I. Ber. Not one of all those strangers whom thou doubtest,
But will regard thee with a filial feeling,
So that thou keep'st a father's faith with them.
Doge. The die is cast. Where is the place of meeting ? [mask'd
I. Ber. At midnight I will be alone and
Where'er your highness pleases to direct me,
To wait your coming, and conduct you where
You shall receive our homage, and pronounce
Upon our project.
Doge. At what hour arises
The moon ? [and dusky,
I. Ber. Late, but the atmosphere is thick
'Tis a sirocco.
Doge. At the midnight hour, then,
Near to the church where sleep my sires ; the same,
Twin-named from the apostles John and Paul;
A gondola,* with one oar only, will
Lurk in the narrow channel which glides by.
Be there.
I. Ber. I will not fail.
Doge. And now retire—
I. Ber. In the full hope your highness will not falter
In your great purpose. Prince, I take my leave.
[*Exit* Israel Bertuccio.
Doge. [*solus.*] At midnight, by the church Saints John and Paul,
Where sleep my noble fathers, I repair—
To what ? to hold a council in the dark
With common ruffians leagued to ruin states !
And will not my great sires leap from the vault,
Where lie two doges who preceded me,
And pluck me down amongst them ? Would they could !

* A Gondola is not like a common boat, but is as easily rowed with one oar as with two (though of course not so swiftly), and often is so from motives of privacy and, since the decay of Venice, of economy.

For I should rest in honor, with the honor'd.
Alas! I must not think of them, but those
Who have made me thus unworthy of a name
Noble and brave as aught of consular
On Roman marbles; but I will redeem it
Back to its antique lustre in our annals,
By sweet revenge on all that's base in Venice,
And freedom to the rest, or leave it back
To all the growing calumnies of times,
Which never spare the fame of him who fails,
But try the Cæsar, or the Catiline,
By the true touchstone of desert—success.

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*An Apartment in the Ducal Palace.*

ANGIOLINA (*wife of the* DOGE) *and* MARIANNA.

Ang. What was the Doge's answer?
Mar. That he was
That moment summon'd to a conference;
But 'tis by this time ended. I perceived
Not long ago the senators embarking;
And the last gondola may now be seen
Gliding into the throng of barks which stud
The glittering waters.
Ang. Would he were return'd!
He has been much disquieted of late,
And Time which has not tamed his fiery spirit,
Nor yet enfeebled even his mortal frame,
Which seems to be more nourished by a soul
So quick and restless that it would consume
Less hardy clay—Time has but little power
On his resentments or his griefs. Unlike
To other spirits of his order, who,
In the first burst of passion, pour away
Their wrath or sorrow, all things wear in him
An aspect of eternity: his thoughts,
His feelings, passions, good or evil all
Have nothing of old age; and his bold brow
Bears but the scars of mind, the thoughts of years,
Not their decrepitude; and he of late
Has been more agitated than his wont.
Would he would come! for I alone have power
Upon his troubled spirit.
Mar. It is true,
His highness has of late been greatly moved
By the affront of Steno, and with cause:
But the offender doubtless even now
Is doom'd to expiate his rash insult with
Such chastisement as will enforce respect
To female virtue, and to noble blood.
Ang. 'Twas a gross insult; but I heed it not
For the rash scorner's falsehood in itself,
But for the effect, the deadly deep impression
Which it has made upon Faliero's soul,
The proud, the fiery, the austere—austere
To all save me; I tremble when I think
To what it may conduct.
Mar. Assuredly
The Doge cannot suspect you?
Ang. Suspect *me!*
Why, Steno dared not: when he scrawl'd his lie,
Grovelling by stealth in the moon's glimmering light,
His own still conscience smote him for the act,
And every shadow on the walls frown'd shame
Upon his coward calumny.
Mar. 'Twere fit
He should be punish'd grievously.
Ang. He is so.
Mar. What! is the sentence pass'd? is he condemn'd?
Ang. I know not that, but he has been detected.
Mar. And deem you this enough for such foul scorn?
Ang. I would not be a judge in my own cause,
Nor do I know what sense of punishment
May reach the soul of ribalds such as Steno;
But if his insults sink no deeper in
The minds of the inquisitors than they
Have ruffled mine, he will, for all acquittance,
Be left to his own shamelessness or shame.
Mar. Some sacrifice is due to slander'd virtue.
Ang. Why, what is virtue if it needs a victim?
Or if it must depend upon men's words?
The dying Roman said "'twas but a name":
It was indeed no more, if human breath
Could make or mar it.
Mar. Yet full many a dame,
Stainless and faithful, would feel all the wrong
Of such a slander; and less rigid ladies,
Such as abound in Venice, would be loud
And all-inexorable in their cry
For justice.
Ang. This but proves it is the name
And not the quality they prize: the first
Have found it a hard task to hold their honor,
If they require it to be blazon'd forth;
And those who have not kept it, seek its seeming
As they would look out for an ornament
Of which they feel the want, but not because
They think it so; they live in others' thoughts
And would seem honest, as they must seem fair,
Mar. You have strange thoughts for a patrician dame.
Ang. And yet they were my father's; with his name,
The sole inheritance he left.
Mar. You want none:
Wife to a prince, the chief of the Republic.
Ang. I should have sought none though a peasant's bride,
But feel not less the love and gratitude
Due to my father, who bestow'd my hand
Upon his early, tried, and trusted friend,
The Count Val di Marino, now our Doge.
Mar. And with that hand did he bestow your heart?
Ang. He did so, or it had not been bestow'd.
Mar. Yet this strange disproportion in your years,
And, let me add, disparity of tempers,
Might make the world doubt whether such an union
Could make you wisely, permanently happy.
Ang. The world will think with worldlings: but the heart

Has still been in my duties, which are many,
But never difficult.
Mar. And do you love him?
Ang. I love all noble qualities which merit
Love, and I love my father, who first taught me
To single out what we should love in others,
And to subdue all tendency to lend
The best and purest feelings of our nature
To baser passions. He bestow'd my hand
Upon Falliero: he had known him noble,
Brave, generous: rich in all the qualities
Of soldier, citizen, and friend; in all
Such have I found him as my father said.
His faults are those that dwell in the high bosoms [pride,
Of men who have commanded; too much
And the deep passions fiercely foster'd by
The uses of patricians, and a life
Spent in the storms of state and war; and also
From the quick sense of honor, which becomes
A duty to a certain sign, a vice
When overstrain'd, and this I fear in him.
And then he has been rash from his youth upwards,
Yet temper'd by redeeming nobleness
In such sort, that the wariest of republics
Has lavish'd all its chief employs upon him,
From his first fight to his last embassy, [him.
From which on his return the dukedom met
Mar. But previous to this marriage, had your heart
Ne'er beat for any of the noble youth,
Such as in years had been more meet to match
Beauty like yours? or since have you ne'er seen
One, who, if your fair hand was still to give,
Might now pretend to Loredano's daughter?
Ang. I answered your first question when I married. [I said
Mar. And the second?
Ang. Needs no answer.
Mar. I beg your pardon, if I have offended.
Ang. I feel no wrath, but some surprise: I knew not [selves
That wedded bosoms could permit them-
To ponder upon what they *now* might choose,
Or aught save their past choice.
Mar. 'Tis their past choice
That far too often makes them deem they would
Now choose more wisely, could they cancel it.
Ang. It may be so. I knew not of such thoughts.
Mar. Here comes the Doge—shall I retire?
Ang. It may
Be better you should quit me; he seems wrapt
In thought.—How pensively he takes his way!
[*Exit* Marianna.

Enter the Doge *and* Pietro.

Doge [*musing*]. There is a certain Philip Calendaro
Now in the Arsenal, who holds command
Of eighty men and has great influence
Besides on all the spirits of his comrades:
This man, I hear, is bold and popular,
Sudden and daring, and yet secret; it would
Be well that he were won: I needs must hope
That Israel Bertuccio has secured him,
But fain would be——
Pie. My lord, pray pardon me
For breaking upon your meditation;
The Senator Bertuccio your kinsman, [ure
Charged me to follow and inquire your pleas-
To fix an hour when he may speak with you.
Doge. At sunset.—Stay a moment—let me
Say in the second hour of night. [see—
[*Exit* Pietro.
Ang. My lord!
Doge. My dearest child, forgive me—why delay?
So long approaching me?—I say you not.
Ang. You were absorb'd in thought, and he who now [weight
Has parted from you might have words of
To bear you from the senate.
Doge. From the senate?
Ang. I would not interrupt him in his duty
And theirs.
Doge. The senate's duty! you mistake;
'Tis we who owe all service to the senate.
Ang. I thought the Duke had held command in Venice. [be jocund.
Doge. He shall.—But let that pass. We will
How fares it with you? have you been abroad?
The day is overcast, but the calm wave
Favors the gondolier's light skimming oar;
Or have you held a levee of your friends?
Or has your music made you solitary?
Say—is there aught that you would will within
The little sway now left the Duke? or aught
Of fitting splendor, or of honest pleasure,
Social or lonely, that would glad your heart,
To compensate for many a dull hour wasted
On an old man oft moved with many cares?
Speak, and 'tis done.
Ang. You're ever kind to me.
I have nothing to desire, or to request,
Except to see you oftener and calmer.
Doge. Calmer?
Ang. Ay, calmer, my good lord.—Ah, why
Do you still keep apart and walk alone,
And let such strong emotions stamp your brow,
As not betraying their full import, yet
Disclose too much?
Doge. Disclose too much!—of what?
What is there to disclose?
Ang. A heart so ill
At ease.
Doge. 'Tis nothing, child.—But in the state
You know what daily cares oppress all those
Who govern this precarious commonwealth;
Now suffering from the Genoese without, [me
And malcontents within—'tis this which makes
More pensive and less tranquil than my wont.
Ang. Yet this existed long before, and never
Till in these late days did I see you thus.
Forgive me; there is something at your heart
More than the mere discharge of public duties,
Which long use and a talent like to yours
Have rendered light, nay, a necessity,
To keep your mind from stagnating. 'Tis not

In hostile states, nor perils, thus to shake you;
You, who have stood all storms and never sunk,
And climb'd up to the pinnacle of power
And never fainted by the way, and stand
Upon it, and can look down steadily [dizzy.
Along the depth beneath, and ne'er feel
Were Genoa's galleys riding in the port,
Were civil fury raging in St. Mark's,
You are not to be wrought on, but would fall,
As you have risen, with an unalter'd brow—
Your feelings now are of a different kind:
Something has stung your pride, not patriotism.

Doge. Pride! Angiolina? Alas! none is left me.

Ang. Yes—the same sin that overthrew the angels.
And of all sins most easily besets
Mortals the nearest to the angelic nature.
The vile are only vain; the great are proud.

Doge. I *had* the pride of honor, of *your* honor, [theme.
Deep at my heart—But let us change the

Ang. Ah no!—As I have ever shared your kindness
In all things else, let me not be shut out
From your distress: were it of public import,
You know I never sought, would never seek
To win a word from you; but feeling now
Your grief is private, it belongs to me
To lighten or divide it. Since the day
When foolish Steno's ribaldry detected
Unfix'd your quiet, you are greatly changed,
And I would soothe you back to what you were.

Doge. To what I was!—have you heard

Ang. No. Steno's sentence?

Doge. A month's arrest.

Ang. Is it not enough?

Doge. Enough!—yes, for a drunken galley-slave, [master;
Who, stung by stripes, may murmur at his
But not for a deliberate, false, cool villain,
Who stains a lady's and a prince's honor
Even on the throne of his authority. [viction

Ang. There seems to be enough in the con-
Of a patrician guilty of a falsehood:
All other punishment were light unto
His loss of honor.

Doge. Such men have no honor;
They have but their vile lives—and these are spared. [offence?

Ang. You would not have him die for this

Doge. Not *now*:—being still alive, I'd have him live
Long as *he* can: he has ceased to merit death;
The guilty saved hath damn'd his hundred judges,
And he is pure, for now his crime is theirs.

Ang. Oh! had this false and flippant libeller
Shed his young blood for his absurd lampoon,
Ne'er from that moment could this breast have known
A joyous hour, or dreamless slumber more.

Doge. Does not the law of heaven say blood for blood?
And he who *taints* kills more than he who sheds it;
Is it the *pain* of blows, or *shame*, of blows,
That makes such deadly to the sense of man?
Do not the laws of man say blood for honor?
And, less than honor, for a little gold?
Say not the laws of nations blood for treason?
I'st nothing to have fill'd these veins with poison
For their once healthful current? is it nothing
To have stain'd your name and mine—the noblest names?
I'st nothing to have brought into contempt
A prince before his people? to have fail'd
In the respect accorded by mankind
To youth in women, and old age to man?
To virtue in your sex, and dignity [saved him.
In ours?—But let them look to it who have

Ang. Heaven bids us to forgive our enemies.

Doge. Doth Heaven forgive her own? Is
From wrath eternal? [Satan saved

Ang. Do not speak thus wildly—
Heaven will alike forgive you and your foes.

Doge. Amen! May Heaven forgive them!

Aug. And will you?

Doge. Yes! when they are in heaven!

Ang. And not till then?

Doge. What matters my forgiveness? an old man's, [matters then
Worn out, scorn'd, spurn'd, abused; what
My pardon more than my resentment, both
Being weak and worthless? I have lived too long;
But let us change the argument.—My child!
My injured wife, the child of Loredano,
The brave, the chivalrous, how little deem'd
Thy father, wedding thee unto his friend,
That he was linking thee to shame!—Alas!
Shame without sin, for thou art faultless. Hadst thou
But had a different husband, *any* husband
In Venice save the Doge, this blight, this brand,
This blasphemy had never fallen upon thee,
So young, so beautiful, so good, so pure,
To suffer this, and yet be unavenged!

Ang. I am too well avenged, for you still love me,
And trust, and honor me; and all men know
That you are just, and I am true; what more
Could I require, or you command?

Doge. 'Tis well,
And may be better; but whate'er betide,
Be thou at least kind to my memory.

Ang. Why speak you thus?

Doge. It is no matter why;
But I would still, whatever others think,
Have your respect both now and in my grave.

Ang. Why should you doubt it? has it ever fail'd? [with you.

Doge. Come hither, child; I would a word
Your father was my friend; unequal fortune
Made him my debtor for some courtesies
Which bind the good more firmly; when, oppress'd
With his last malady, he will'd our union,

It was not to repay me, long repaid
Before by his great loyalty in friendship;
His object was to place your orphan beauty
In honorable safety from the perils
Which, in this scorpion nest of vice, assail
A lonely and endower'd maid. I did not
Think with him, but would not oppose the
Which soothed his death-bed. [thought
Ang. I have not forgotten
The nobleness with which you bade me speak
If my young heart held any preference [offer
Which would have made me happier; nor your
To make my dowry equal to the rank
Of aught in Venice, and forego all claim
My father's last injunction gave you.
Doge. Thus,
'Twas not a foolish dotard's vile caprice,
Nor the false edge of aged appetite,
Which made me covetous of girlish beauty,
And a young bride: for in my fiercest youth
I sway'd such passion; nor was this my age
Infected with that leprosy of lust
Which taints the hoariest years of vicious men,
Making them ransack to the very last
The dregs of pleasure for their vanish'd joys;
Or buy in selfish marriage some young victim,
Too helpless to refuse a state that's honest,
Too feeling not to know herself a wretch.
Our wedlock was not of this sort; you had
Freedom from me to choose, and urged in
Your father's choice. [answer
Ang. I did so; I would do so
In face of earth and heaven; for I have never
Repented for my sake; sometimes for yours,
In pondering o'er your late disquietudes.
Doge. I knew my heart would never treat you harshly;
I knew my days could not disturb you long:
And then the daughter of my earliest friend,
His worthy daughter, free to choose again,
Wealthier and wiser, in the ripest bloom
Of womanhood, more skillful to select
By passing these probationary years,
Inheriting a prince's name and riches,
Secured, by the short penance of enduring
An old man for some summers, against all
That law's chicane or envious kinsmen might
Have urged against her right; my best friend's child,
Would choose more fitly in respect of years,
And not less truly in a faithful heart.
Ang. My lord, I look'd but to my father's wishes,
Hallow'd by his last words, and to my heart
For doing all its duties, and replying
With faith to him with whom I was affianced.
Ambitious hopes ne'er cross'd my dreams; and should
The hour you speak of come, it will be seen so.
Doge. I do believe you; and I know you true;
For love, romantic love, which in my youth
I knew to be illusion, and ne'er saw
Lasting, but often fatal, it had been
No lure for me, in my most passionate days,
And could not be so now, did such exist.
But such respect, and mildly paid regard
As a true feeling for your welfare, and
A free compliance with all honest wishes;
A kindness to your virtues, watchfulness,
Not shown, but shadowing o'er such little failings
As youth is apt in, so as not to check
Rashly, but win you from them ere you knew
You had been won, but thought the change your choice;
A pride not in your beauty, but your conduct—
A trust in you:—a patriarchal love,
And not a doting homage—friendship, faith,—
Such estimation in your eyes as these
Might claim, I hope for.
Ang. And have ever had.
Doge. I think so. For the difference in our years [trusted
You knew it, choosing me, and chose: I
Not to my qualities, nor would have faith
In such, nor outward ornaments of nature,
Were I still in my five and twentieth spring;
I trusted to the blood of Loredano
Pure in your veins; I trusted to the soul
God gave you—to the truths your father taught you— [tues—
To your belief in Heaven—to your mild vir-
To your own faith and honor, for my own.
Ang. You have done well.—I thank you for that trust,
Which I have never for one moment ceased
To honor you the more for.
Doge. Where is honor,
Inmate and precept strengthen'd, 'tis the rock
Of faith connubial: where it is not—where
Light thoughts are lurking, or the vanities
Of worldly pleasure rankle in the heart,
Or sensual throbs convulse it, well I know
'Twere hopeless for humanity to dream
Of honesty in such infected blood,
Although 'twere wed to him it covets most;
An incarnation of the poet's god
In all his marble-chisell'd beauty, or
The demi-deity, Alcides, in
His majesty of superhuman manhood,
Would not suffice to bind where virtue is not:
It is consistency which forms and proves it:
Vice cannot fix, and virtue cannot change.
The once fall'n woman must forever fall;
For vice must have variety, while virtue
Stands like the sun, and all which rolls around
Drinks life, and light, and glory from her aspect.
Ang. And seeing, feeling thus this truth in others,
(I pray you pardon me;) but wherefore yield
To the most fierce of fatal passions, and [you
Disquiet your great thoughts with restless
On such a thing as Steno? [hate
Doge. You mistake me.
It is not Steno who could move me thus;
Had it been so, he should—but let that pass.
Ang. What is't you feel so deeply, then, even now?
Doge. The violated majesty of Venice.
At once insulted in her lord and laws.
Ang. Alas! why will you thus consider it?

Doge I have thought on't till—but let me lead you back
To what I urged; all these things being noted,
I wedded you; the world then did me justice
Upon the motive; and my conduct proved
They did me right, while yours was all to praise.
You had all freedom—all respect—all trust
From me and mine; and, born of those who made [thrones
Princes at home, and sweet kings from their
On foreign shores in all things you appear'd
Worthy to be our first of native dames.
Ang. To what does this conduct?
Doge. To thus much—that
A miscreant's angry breath may blast it all—
A villain, who for his unbridled bearing,
Even in the midst of our great festival,
I caused to be conducted forth, and taught
How to demean himself in ducal chambers;
A wretch like this may leave upon the wall
The blighting venom of his sweltering heart,
And this shall spread itself in general poison;
And woman's innocence, man's honor, pass
Into a by-word; and the doubly felon
(Who first insulted virgin modesty
By a gross affront to your attendant damsels
Amidst the noblest of our dames in public)
Requite himself for his most just expulsion
By blackening publicly his sovereign's consort,
And be absolved by his upright compeers.
Ang. But he has been condemned into captivity. [acquittal;
Doge. For such as him a dungeon were
And his brief term of mock-arrest will pass
Within a palace. But I've done with him;
The rest must be with you.
Ang. With me, my lord?
Doge. Yes, Angiolina. Do not marvel; I
Have let this prey upon me, till I feel [you
My life cannot be long; and fain would have
Regard the injunctions you will find within
This scroll [*giving her a paper*]——fear not;
They are for your advantage:
Read them hereafter at the fitting hour.
Ang. My lord, in life, and after life, you shall
Be honor'd still by me: but may your days
Be many yet—and happier than the present!
This passion will give way, and you will be
Serene, and what you should be—what you were. [nothing;
Doge. I will be what I should be, or be
But never more—oh! never never more,
O'er the few days or hours which yet await
The blighted old age of Faliero, shall
Sweet quiet shed her sunset! Never more
Those summer shadows rising from the past
Of a not ill-spent nor inglorious life,
Mellowing the last hours as the night approaches,
Shall soothe me to my moment of long rest.
I had but little more to ask, or hope,
Save the regards due to the blood and sweat,
And the soul's labor through which I had toil'd
To make my country honor'd. As her servant— [gone
Her servant, though her chief—I would have
Down to my fathers with a name serene
And pure as theirs: but this has been denied
Would I had died at Zara! [me—
Ang. There you saved
The state; then live to save her still. A day,
Another day like that would be the best
Reproof to them, and sole revenge for you.
Doge. But one such day occurs within an age;
My life is still less than one, and 'tis
Enough for fortune to have granted *once*,
That which scarce one more favor'd citizen
May win in many states and years. But why
Thus speak I? Venice has forgot that day—
Then why should I remember it?—Farewell,
Sweet Angiolina. I must to my cabinet.
There's much for me to do—and the hour
Ang. Remember what you were. [hastens.
Doge. It were in vain!
Joy's recollection is no longer joy,
While sorrow's memory is a sorrow still.
Ang. At least, whate'er may urge, let me implore
That you will take some little pause of rest:
Your sleep for many nights has been so turbid,
That it had been relief to have awaked you,
Had I not hoped that Nature would o'erpower
At length the thoughts which shook your slumbers thus.
An hour of rest will give you to your toils
With fitter thoughts and freshen'd strength.
Doge. I cannot—
I must not if I could; for never was
Such reason to be watchful; yet a few—
Yet a few days and dream-perturb'd nights,
And I shall slumber well—but where?—no
Adieu, my Angiolina. [matter.
Ang. Let me be
An instant—yet an instant your companion!
I cannot bear to leave you thus.
Doge. Come then,
My gentle child—forgive me; thou wert made
For better fortunes than to share in mine,
Now darkling in their close toward the deep vale [shadow.
Where Death sits robed in his all-sweeping
When I am gone—it may be sooner than
Even these years warrant, for there is that stirring
Within, above, around, that in this city
Will make the cemeteries populous
As e'er they were by pestilence of war,—
When I *am* nothing, let that which I *was*
Be still sometimes a name on thy sweet lips,
A shadow in thy fancy, of a thing [member;—
Which would not have thee mourn it, but remember
Let us begone, my child—the time is pressing.
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—*A retired spot near the Arsenal.*

ISRAEL BERTUCCIO *and* PHILIP CALENDARO.

Cal. How spend you, Israel, in your late
I. Ber. Why, well. [complaint?

Cal. Is't possible! will he be punish'd?
I. Ber. Yes.
Cal. With what? a mulct or an arrest?
I. Ber. With death—
Cal. Now you rave, or must intend revenge,
Such as I counsell'd you, with your own hand.
I. Ber. Yes, and for one sole draught of hate forego
The great redress we mediate for Venice,
And change a life of hope for one of exile;
Leaving one scorpion crush'd and thousands stinging
My friends, my family, my countrymen!
No, Calendaro; these same drops of blood,
Shed shamefully, shall have the whole of his
For their requital—but not only his;
We will not strike for private wrongs alone:
Such are for selfish passions and rash men,
But are unworthy a tyrannicide. [boast.
Cal. You have more patience than I care to
Had I been present when you bore this insult,
I must have slain him, or expired myself
In the vain effort to repress my wrath.
I. Ber. Thank heaven you were not—all had else been marr'd:
As 'tis, our cause looks prosperous still.
Cal. You saw
The Doge—what answer gave he?
I. Ber. That there was
No punishment for such as Barbaro.
Cal. I told you so before, and that 'twas
To think of justice from such hands. [idle
I. Ber. At least
It lull'd suspicion, showing confidence.
Had I been silent, not a sbirro but
Had kept me in his eye, as meditating
A silent, solitary, deep revenge. [Council?
Cal. But wherefore not address you to the
The Doge is a mere puppet, who can scarce
Obtain right for himself. Why speak to him?
I. Ber. You shall know that hereafter.
Cal. Why not now?
I. Ber. Be patient but till midnight. Get your musters,
And bid our friends prepare their companies:
Set all in readiness to strike the blow,
Perhaps in a few hours; we have long waited
For a fit time—that hour is on the dial,
It may be, of to-morrow's sun: delay
Beyond may breed us double danger. See
That all be punctual at our place of meeting,
And arm'd, excepting those of the Sixteen,
Who will remain among the troops to wait
The signal. [life
Cal. These brave words have breathed new
Into my veins; I'm sick of these protracted
And hesitating councils: day on day
Crawl'd on, and added but another link
To our long fetters, and some fresher wrong
Inflicted on our brethren or ourselves,
Helping to swell our tyrants' bloated strength.
Let us but deal with them, and I care not
For the result, which must be death or freedom!
I'm weary to to the heart of finding neither.
I. Ber. We will be free in life or death! the grave
Is chainless. Have you all the musters ready?
And are the sixteen companies completed
To sixty?
Cal. All save two, in which there are
Twenty-five waiting to make up the number.
I. Ber. No matter; we can do without.
Whose are they? [whom
Cal. Bertram's and old Soranzo's, both of
Appear less forward in the cause than we are.
I. Ber. Your fiery nature makes you deem all those
Who are not restless cold: but there exists
Oft in concentrated spirits not less daring
Than in more loud avengers. Do not doubt them. [tram
Cal. I do not doubt the elder; but in Ber-
There is a hesitating softness, fatal
To enterprise like ours; I've seen that man
Weep like an infant o'er the misery
Of others, heedless of his own, though greater;
And in a recent quarrel I beheld him [lain's.
Turn sick at sight of blood, although a vil-
I. Ber. The truly brave are soft of heart and eye,
And feel for what their duty bids them do.
I have known Bertram long; there doth not
A soul more full of honor. [breathe
Cal. It may be so;
I apprehend less treachery then weakness;
Yet as he has no mistress, and no wife
To work upon his milkiness of spirit,
He may go through the ordeal; it is well
He is an orphan, friendless save in us:
A woman or a child hath made him less
Than either in resolve.
I. Ber. Such ties are not
For those who are call'd to the high destinies
Which purify corrupted commonwealths;
We must forget all feelings save the *one*—
We must resign all passions save our purpose—
We must behold no object save our country—
And only look on death as beautiful,
So that the sacrifice ascend to heaven,
And draw down freedom on her evermore.
Cal. But if we fail—
I. Ber. They never fail who die
In a great cause: the block may soak their gore, [limbs
Their heads may sodden in the sun; their
Be strung to city gates and castle walls—
But still their spirit walks abroad. Though
Elapse, and others share as dark a doom, [year
They but augment the deep and sweeping thoughts
Which overpower all others, and conduct
The world at last to freedom: what were we,
If Brutus had not lived? He died in giving
Rome liberty, but left a deathless lesson—
A name which is a virtue, and a soul
Which multiplies itself throughout all time,
When wicked men wax mighty, and a state
Turns servile: he and his high friend were styled

"The last of Romans!" Let us be the first
Of true Venetians, sprung from Roman sires.
Cal. Our fathers did not fly from Attila
Into these isles, where palaces have sprung
On banks redeem'd from the rude ocean's ooze
To own a thousand despots in his place.
Better bow down before the Hun, and call
A Tartar lord, than those swoln silkworms masters!
The first at least was man, and used his sword
As sceptre: these unmanly creeping things,
Command our swords, and rule us with a word
As with a spell.
I. Ber. It shall be broken soon.
You say that all things are in readiness:
To-day I have not been the usual round,
And why thou knowest; but thy vigilance
Will better have supplied my care; these orders
In recent council to redouble now
Our efforts to repair the galleys, have
Lent a fair color to the introduction
Of many of our cause into the arsenal,
As new artificers for their equipment.
Or fresh recruits obtain'd in haste to man
The hoped-for fleet.—Are all supplied with arms? [there are some
Cal. All who were deem'd trustworthy; Whom it were well to keep in ignorance
Till it be time to strike, and then supply them;
When in the heat and hurry of the hour
They have no opportunity to pause,
But needs must on with those who will surround them. [mark'd all such?
I. Ber. You have said well. Have you re-
Cal. I've noted most; and caused the other chiefs
To use like caution in their companies.
As far as I have seen, we are enough
To make the enterprise secure, if 'tis
Commenced to-morrow; but, till 'tis begun,
Each hour is pregnant with a thousand perils.
I. Ber. Let the Sixteen meet at the wonted
Except Soranzo, Nicoletto Blondo, [hour,
And Marco Giuda, who will keep their watch
Within the arsenal, and hold all ready,
Expectant of the signal we will fix on.
Cal. We will not fail.
I. Ber. Let all the rest be there;
I have a stranger to present to them.
Cal. A stranger! doth he know the secret?
I. Ber. Yes.
Cal. And have you dared to peril your friends' lives
On a rash confidence in one we know not?
I. Ber. I have risk'd no man's life except my own—
Of that be certain; he is one who may
Make our assurance doubly sure, according
His aid; and if reluctant, he no less
Is in our power! he comes alone with me,
And cannot 'scape us; but he will not swerve.
Cal. I cannot judge of this until I know
Is he one of our order? [him.
I. Ber. Ay, in spirit,
Although a child of greatness; he is one [one—
Who would become a throne, or overthrow
One who had done great deeds, and seen great changes;
No tyrant, though bred up to tyranny;
Valiant in war, and sage in council: noble
In nature, although haughty; quick, yet wary:
Yet for all this, so full of certain passions,
That if once stirr'd and baffled, as he has been
Upon the tenderest points, there is no Fury
In Grecian story like that which wrings
His vitals with her burning hands, till he
Grows capable of all things for revenge:
And add too, that his mind is liberal,
He sees and feels the people are oppress'd,
And shares their sufferings. Take him all in all, [of us.
We have need of such, and such have need
Cal. And what part would you have him take with us?
I. Ber. It may be, that of chief.
Cal. What! and resign
Your own command as leader?
I. Ber. Even so.
My object is to make your cause end well,
And not to push myself to power. Experience,
Some skill, and your own choice, had mark'd me out
To act in trust as your commander, till [such
Some worthier should appear: if I have found
As you yourselves shall own more worthy, think you
That I would hesitate from selfishness,
And, covetous of brief authority, [thoughts,
Stake our deep interests on my single
Rather than yield to one above me in
All leading qualities? No, Calendaro,
Know your friend better: but you all shall judge.—
Away! and let us meet at the fix'd hour.
Be vigilant, and all will yet go well. [ever.
Cal. Worthy Bertuccio, I have known you
Trusty and brave, with head and heart to plan
What I have still been prompt to execute.
For my own part I seek no other chief;
What the rest will decide I know not, but
I am with you, as I have ever been,
In all our undertakings. Now farewell,
Until the hour of midnight sees us meet.
[*Exeunt.*

ACT III.

SCENE I:—*Scene, the Space between the Canal and the Church of San Giovanni e San Paolo. An equestrian statue before it. A Gondola lies in the Canal at some distance.*

Enter the DOGE *alone, disguised.*

Doge. [*solus.*] I am before the hour, the hour whose voice,
Pealing into the arch of night, might strike
The palaces with ominous tottering,
And rock their marbles to the corner-stone,
Waking the sleepers from some hideous dream

Of indistinct but awful augury [city!
Of that which will befall them. Yes, proud
Thou must be cleansed of the black blood which makes thee
A lazar-house of tyranny: the task
Is forced upon me, I have sought it not;
And therefore was I punish'd seeing this
Patrician pestilence spread on and on,
Until at length it smote me in my slumbers,
And I am tainted and must wash away
The plague spots in the healing wave. Tall fane! [shadow
Where sleep my fathers, whose dim statues
The floor which doth divide us from the dead.
Where all the pregnant hearts of our bold
Moulder'd into a mite of ashes, hold [blood,
In one shrunk heap what once made many heroes,
When what is now a handful shook the earth—
Fane of the tutelar saints who guard our house!
Vault where two Doges rest—my sires! who
The one of toil, the other in the field, [died
With a long race of other lineal chiefs [state
And sages, whose great labors, wounds, and
I have inherited,—let the graves gape,
Till all thine isles be peopled with the dead,
And pour them from thy portals to gaze on me!
I call them up, and them and thee to witness
What it hath been which put me to this task—
Their pure high blood, their blazon-roll of glories,
Their mighty name dishonor'd all *in* me,
Not *by* me, but by the ungrateful nobles
We fought to make our equals, not our lords:—
And chiefly thou, Ordelafo the brave,
Who perish'd in the field, where I since con-
Battling at Zara, did the hecatombs [quer'd,
Of thine and Venice' foes, there offer'd up
By thy descendant, merit such acquittance?
Spirits! smile down upon me; for my cause
Is yours, in all life now can be of yours—
Your fame, your name, all mingled up in mine,
And in the future fortunes of our race!
Let me but prosper, and I make this city
Free and immortal, and our house's name
Worthier of what you were, now and hereafter!

Enter Israel Bertuccio.

I. Ber. Who goes there?

Doge. A friend to Venice,

I. Ber. 'Tis he.
Welcome, my lord,—you are before the time.

Doge. I am ready to proceed to your assembly. [pleased to see

I. Ber. Have with you—I am proud and
Such confident alacrity. Your doubts
Since our last meeting, then, are all dispell'd?

Doge. Not so—but I have set my little left
Of life upon this cast: the die was thrown
When I first listen'd to your treason,—Start not!
That is the word; I cannot shape my tongue
To syllable black deeds into smooth names,
Though I be wrought on to commit them.
When [bore
I heard you tempt your sovereign, and fore-
To have you dragg'd to prison, I became
Your guiltiest accomplice: now you may,
If it so please you, do as much by me.

I. Ber. Strange words, my lord, and most unmerited.
I am no spy, and neither are we traitors.

Doge. *We!—We!*—no matter—you have earned the right
To talk of *us*.—But to the point.—If this
Attempt succeeds, and Venice, render'd free
And flourishing, when we are in our graves,
Conducts her generations to her tombs,
And makes her children with their little hands
Strew flowers o'er her deliverers' ashes, then
The consequence will sanctify the deed,
And we shall be like the two Bruti in
The annals of hereafter; but if not,
If we should fail, employing bloody means
And secret plot, although to a good end,
Still we are traitors, honest Israel;—thou
No less than he who was thy sovereign
Six hours ago, and now thy brother rebel.

I. Ber. 'Tis not the moment to consider thus,
Else I could answer.—Let us to the meeting,
Or we may be observed in lingering here.

Doge. We *are* observed, and have been.

I. Ber. We observed!
Let me discover—and this steel—

Doge. Put up;
Here are no human witnesses: look there—
What see you?

I. Ber. Only a tall warrior's statue
Bestriding a proud steed, in the dim light
Of the dull moon.

Doge. That warrior was the sire
Of my sire's fathers, and that statue was
Decreed to him by the twice-rescued city;—
Think you that he looks down on us or no?

I. Ber. My lord, these are mere phantasies;
No eyes in marble. [there are

Doge. But there are in Death.
I tell thee, man, there is a spirit in [felt;
Such things that acts and sees, unseen, though
And, if there be a spell to stir the dead,
'Tis in such deeds as we are now upon.
Deem'st thou the souls of such a race as mine
Can rest, when he, their last descendant chief,
Stands plotting on the brink of their pure
With stung plebeians? [graves

I. Ber. It had been as well
To have ponder'd this before,—ere you embark'd
In our great enterprise—Do you repent?

Doge. No—but I *feel*, and shall do to the
I cannot quench a glorious life at once, [last.
Nor dwindle to the thing I now must be,
And take men's lives by stealth, without some pause:
Yet doubt me not; it is this very feeling,
And knowing *what* has wrung me to be thus,
Which is your best security. There's not
A roused mechanic in your busy plot

So wrong'd as I, so fall'n, so loudly call'd
To his redress: the very means I am forced
By these fell tyrants to adopt is such,
That I abhor them doubly for the deeds
Which I must do to pay them back for theirs.
I. Ber. Let us away—hark—the hour strikes.
Doge. On—on—
It is our knell, or that of Venice—On. [peal
I. Ber. Say rather, 'tis her freedom's rising
Of triumph.—This way—we are near the place. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—*The House where the Conspirators meet.*

DAGOLINO, DORO, BERTRAM, FEDELE TREVISANO, CALENDARO, ANTONIO DELE BENDE, ETC., ETC.

Cal. [*entering*]. Are all here?
Dag. All with you; except the three
On duty, and our leader Israel,
Who is expected momently.
Cal. Where's Bertram?
Ber. Here!
Cal. Have you not been able to complete
The number wanting in your company?
Ber. I had mark'd out some: but I have not dared
To trust them with a secret, till assured
That they were worthy faith.
Cal. There is no need
Of trusting to their faith; *who*, save ourselves
And our more chosen comrades, is aware
Fully of our intent? they think themselves
Engaged in secret to the Signory,*
To punish some more dissolute young nobles
Who have defied the law in their excesses;
But once drawn up, and their new swords well flesh'd,
In the rank hearts of the more odious senators,
They will not hesitate to follow up
Their blow upon the others, when they see
The example of their chiefs, and I for one
Will set them such, that they for very shame
And safety will not pause till all have perish'd.
Ber. How say you? *all!*
Cal. Whom wouldst thou spare?
Ber. *I spare?*
I have no power to spare. I only question'd,
Thinking that even amongst these wicked men
There might be some, whose age and qualities
Might mark them out for pity.
Cal. Yes, such pity
As when the viper hath been cut to pieces,
The separate fragments quivering in the sun,
In their last energy of venomous life,
Deserve and have. Why, I should think as soon
Of pitying some particular fang which made
One in the jaw of the swoln serpent, as
Of saving one of these: they form but links
Of one long chain; one mass, one breath, one body; [gether;
They eat, and drink, and live, and breed to-
Revel, and lie, oppress, and kill in concert,—
So let them die as *one!*
Dag. Should *one* survive,
He would be dangerous as the whole; it is not
Their number, be it tens or thousands, but
The spirit of this aristocracy
Which must be rooted out; and if there were
A single shoot of the old tree in life,
'Twould fasten in the soil, and spring again
To gloomy verdure and to bitter fruit,
Bertram, we must be firm!
Cal. Look to it well,
Bertram; I have an eye upon thee.
Ber. Who
Distrusts me?
Cal. Not I; for if I do so,
Thou wouldst not now be there to talk of
It is thy softness, not thy want of faith, [trust;
Which makes thee to be doubted.
Ber. You should know,
Who hear me, who and what I am; a man
Roused like yourselves to overthrow oppression:
A kind man, I am apt to think, as some
Of you have found me; and if brave or no,
You, Calendaro, can pronounce, who have seen me [doubts,
Put to the proof: or, if you should have
I'll clear them on your person!
Cal. You are welcome,
When once our enterprise is o'er, which must
Be interrupted by a private brawl. [not
Ber. I am no brawler; but can bear myself
As far among the foe as any here
Who hears me; else why have I been selected
To be of your chief comrades; but no less
I own my natural weakness; I have not
Yet learn'd to think of indiscriminate murder
Without some sense of shuddering; and the sight [is not
Of blood which spouts through hoary scalps
To me a thing of triumph, nor the death
Of men surprised a glory. Well—too well
I know that we must do such things on those
Whose acts have raised up such avengers; but
If there were some of these who could be saved [sakes
From out this sweeping fate, for our own
And for our honor, to take off some stain
Of massacre, which else pollutes it wholly,
I had been glad; and see no cause in this
For sneer, nor for suspicion!
Dag. Calm thee, Bertram,
For we suspect thee not, and take good heart.
It is the cause, and not our will which asks
Such actions from our hands: we'll wash away
All stains in Freedom's fountain!

Enter ISRAEL BERTUCCIO *and the* DOGE, *disguised.*

Dag. Welcome, Israel,
Consp. Most welcome.—Brave Bertuccio, thou art late—
Who is this stranger?
Cal. It is time to name him.

* An historical fact. See Appendix, Note A.

Our comrades are even now prepared to greet him
In brotherhood, as I have made it known
That thou wouldst add a brother to our cause,
Approved by thee, and thus approved by all,
Such is our trust in all thine actions. Now
Let him unfold himself.
I. Ber. Stranger, step forth?
[*The* DOGE *discovers himself.*
Consp. To arms!—we are betray'd!—it is the Doge!
Down with them both! our traitorous captain,
The tyrant he has sold us to. [and
Cal. [*drawing his sword.*] Hold! hold!
Who moves a step against them dies. Hold! hear
Bertuccio—What! are you appall'd to see
A lone, unguarded, weaponless old man
Amongst you?—Israel, speak; what means this mystery? [own bosoms,
I. Ber. Let them advance and strike at their
Ungrateful suicides! for on our lives [hopes.
Depend their own, their fortunes and their
Doge. Strike!—If I dreaded death, a death more fearful
Than any your rash weapons can inflict,
I should not now be here!—O noble Courage!
The eldest born of Fear, which makes you brave
Against this solitary hoary head!
See the bold chiefs, who would reform a state
And shake down senates, mad with wrath and dread
At sight of one patrician!—Butcher me!
You can, I care not,—Israel, are these men
The mighty hearts you spoke of? look upon them! [servedly.
Cal. Faith! he hath shamed us, and de-
Was this your trust in your true chief Bertuccio, [guest?
To turn your swords against him and his
Sheathe them, and hear him.
I. Ber. I disdain to speak.
They might and must have known a heart like mine
Incapable of treachery; and the power,
They gave me to adopt all fitting means
To further their design was ne'er abused.
They might be certain that whoe'er was brought
By me into this counsel had been led
To take his choice—as brother or as victim.
Doge. And which am I to be? your actions leave [choice.
Some cause to doubt the freedom of the
I. Ber. My lord, we would have perish'd here together,
Had these rash men proceeded; but, behold,
They are ashamed of that mad moment's impulse, [such
And droop their heads; believe me, they are
As I described them.—Speak to them.
Cal. Ay, speak;
We are all listening in wonder. [are safe,
I. Ber. [*addressing the conspirators.*] You
Nay, more, almost triumphant—listen then,
And know my words for truth.
Doge. You see me here,
As one of you hath said, an old, unarm'd,
Defenceless man; and yesterday you saw me
Presiding in the hall of ducal state,
Apparent sovereign of our hundred isles,
Robed in official purple, dealing out
The edicts of a power which is not mine,
Nor yours, but of our masters—the patricians.
Why I was there you know, or think you know:
Why I am *here*, he who hath been most wrong'd,
He who among you hath been most insulted,
Outraged, and trodden on, until he doubt
If he be worm or no, may answer for me,
Asking of his own heart what brought him here?
You know my recent story, all men know it,
And judge of it far differently from those
Who sate in judgment to heap scorn on scorn.
But spare me the recital—it is here,
Here at my heart the outrage—but my words,
Already spent in unavailing plaints,
Would only show my feebleness the more,
And I come here to strengthen even the strong
And urge them on to deeds, and not to war
With woman's weapons; but I need not urge you. [vices
Our private wrongs have sprung from public
In this—I cannot call it commonwealth,
Nor kingdom, which hath neither prince nor people,
But all the sins of the old Spartan state
Without its virtues—temperance and valor.
The Lords of Lacedæmon were true soldiers,
But ours are Sybarites, while we are Helots,
Of whom I am the lowest, most enslaved;
Although dress'd out to head a pageant, as
The Greeks of yore made drunk their slaves to form
A pastime for their children. You are met
To overthrow this monster of a state,
This mockery of a government, this spectre,
Which must be exorcised with blood,—and then
We will renew the times of truth and justice,
Condensing in a fair free commonwealth
Not rash equality but equal rights.
Proportion'd like the columns to the temple,
Giving and taking strength reciprocal,
And making firm the whole with grace and beauty,
So that no part could be removed without
Infringement of the general symmetry.
In operating this great change, I claim
To be one of you—if you trust in me;
If not, strike home,—my life is compromised,
And I would rather fall, by freemen's hands
Than live another day to act the tyrant
As a delegate of tyrants: such I am not,
And never have been—read it in our annals;
I can appeal to my past government
In many lands and cities; they can tell you
If I were an oppressor, or a man
Feeling and thinking of my fellow-men.
Haply had I been what the senate sought,

A thing of robes and trinkets, dizen'd out
To sit in state as for a sovereign's picture;
A popular scourge, a ready sentence-signer,
A stickler for the Senate and "the Forty,"
A sceptic of all measures which had not
The sanction of "the Ten," a council-fawner,
A tool, a fool, a puppet,—they had ne'er
Foster'd the wretch who stung me. What I suffer
Has reached me through my pity for the people;
That many know, and they who know not yet
Will one day learn: meantime I do devote,
Whate'er the issue, my last days of life—
My present power such as it is, not that
Of Doge, but of a man who has been great
Before he was degraded to a Doge,
And still has individual means and mind,
I stake my fame (and I had fame)—my breath—
(The least of all, for its last hours are nigh)—
My heart—my hope—my soul—upon this cast!
Such as I am, I offer me to you,
And to your chiefs; accept me or reject me,
A Prince who fain would be a citizen [so.
Or nothing, and who has left his throne to be
Cal. Long live Faliero!—Venice shall be free!
Consp. Long live Faliero! [well?
I. Ber. Comrades! did I well?
Is not this man a host in such a cause?
Doge. This is no time for eulogies, nor place
For exultation. Am I one of you?
Cal. Ay, and the first among us, as thou hast been
Of Venice—be our general and chief. [Zara,
Doge. Chief!—general!—I was general at
And chief in Rhodes and Cyprus, prince in
I cannot stoop—that is, I am not fit [Venice:
To lead a band of—patriots: when I lay
Aside the dignities which I have borne,
'Tis not to put on others, but to be
Mate to my fellows—but now to the point;
Israel has stated to me your whole plan—
'Tis bold, but feasible if I assist it,
And must be set in motion instantly.
Cal. E'en when thou wilt. Is it not so, my friends?
I have disposed all for a sudden blow;
When shall it be then?
Doge. At sunrise.
Ber. So soon?
Doge. So soon?—so late—each hour accumulates
Peril on peril, and the more so now
Since I have mingled with you;—know you not [eyes
The Council, and "the Ten"? the spies, the
Of the patricians dubious of their slaves,
And now more dubious of the prince they have made one?
I tell you, you must strike, and suddenly, and
Full to the Hydra's heart—its head will follow.
Cal. With all my soul and sword, I yield assent;
Our companies are ready, sixty each,
And all now under arms by Israel's order;
Each at their different place of rendezvous
And vigilant, expectant of some blow;
Let each repair for action to his post!
And now, my lord, the signal?
Doge. When you hear
The great bell of St. Mark's which may not be
Struck without special order of the Doge
(The last poor privilege they leave their prince),
March on St. Mark's!
I. Ber. And there?—
Doge. By different routes
Let your march be directed, every sixty
Entering a separate avenue, and still
Upon the way let your cry be of war
And of the Genoese fleet, by the first dawn
Discern'd before the port; form around the palace,
Within whose court will be drawn out in arms
My nephew and the clients of our house,
Many and martial; while the bell tolls on.
Shout ye "St. Mark!—the foe is on our waters!"
Cal. I see it now—but on, my noble lord.
Doge. All the patricians flocking to the Council, [signal
(Which they dare not refuse, at the dread
Pealing from out their patron saint's proud tower),
Will then be gather'd in unto the harvest,
And we will reap them with the sword for sickle.
If some few should be tardy or absent them,
'Twill be but to be taken faint and single,
When the majority are put to rest.
Cal. Would that the hour were come! we will not scotch,
But kill.
Ber. Once more, sir, with your pardon, I
Would now repeat the question which I ask'd
Before Bertuccio added to our cause
This great ally who renders it more sure,
And therefore safer, and as such admits
Some dawn of mercy to a portion of
Our victims—must all perish in this slaughter?
Cal. All who encounter me and mine, be sure,
The mercy they have shown, I show. [sure,
Consp. All! all!
Is this a time to talk of pity? when
Have they e'er shown, or felt, or feign'd it?
I. Ber. Bertram,
This false compassion is a folly, and
Injustice to thy comrades and thy cause!
Dost thou not see, that if we single out
Some for escape, they live but to avenge
The fallen? and how distinguish now the innocent
From out the guilty? all their acts are *one*—
A single emanation from one body,
Together knit for our oppression! 'Tis
Much that we let their children live; I doubt
If all of these even should be set apart;
The hunter may reserve some single cub
From out the tiger's litter, but whoe'er
Would seek to save the spotted sire or dam,
Unless to perish by their fangs? however,
I will abide by Doge Faliero's counsel:
Let him decide if any should be saved.

Doge. Ask me not—tempt me not with such
Decide yourselves. [a question.
I. Ber. You know their private virtues
Far better than we can, to whom alone
Their public vices, and most foul oppression,
Have made them deadly; if there be amongst them
One who deserves to be repeal'd, pronounce.
Doge. Dolfino's father was my friend, and Lando
Fought by my side, and Marc Cornaro shared
My Genoese embassy: I saved the life
Of Veniero—shall I save it twice? [also!
Would that I could save them, and Venice
All these men, or their fathers, were my friends [me
Till they became my subjects; then fell from
As faithless leaves drop from the o'erblown flower,
All left me a lone blighted thorny stalk,
Which, in its solitude, can shelter nothing;
So, as they let me wither, let them perish!
Cal. They cannot co-exist with Venice' freedom! [mutual mass
Doge. Ye, though you know and feel our
Of many wrongs, even ye are ignorant
What fatal poison to the springs of life,
To human ties, and all that's good and dear,
Lurks in the present institute of Venice;
All these men were my friends: I loved them,
Requited honorably my regards; [they
We served and fought; we smiled and wept in concert;
We revell'd or we sorrow'd side by side;
We made alliances of blood and marriage;
We grew in years and honors fairly,—till
Their own desire, not my ambition, made
Them choose me for their prince, and then farewell!
Farewell all social memory! all thoughts
In common! and sweet bonds which link old friendships!
When the survivors of long years and actions,
Which now belong to history, soothe the days
Which yet remain by treasuring each other,
And never meet, but each beholds the mirror
Of half a century on his brother's brow,
And sees a hundred beings, now in earth,
Flit round them whispering of the days gone
And seeming not all dead, as long as two[by,
Of the brave, joyous, reckless, glorious band,
Which once were one and many, still retain
A breath to sigh for them, a tongue to speak
Of deeds that else were silent, save on marble—
Oime! Oime!—and must I do this deed?
I. Ber. My lord, you are much moved: it is not now
That such things must be dwelt upon.
Doge. Your patience
A moment—I recede not: mark with me
The gloomy vices of this government.
From the hour they made me Doge, the *Doge* THEY *made* me—
Farewell the past! I died to all that had been,
Or rather they to me; no friends, no kindness,
No privacy of life—all were cut off:
They came not near me, such approach gave umbrage:
They could not love me, such was not the law;
They thwarted me, 'twas the state's policy;
They baffled me, 'twas a patrician's duty;
They wrong'd me, for such was to right the state; [suspicion.
They could not right me, that would give
So that I was a slave to my own subjects;
So that I was a foe to my own friends;
Begirt with spies for guards—with robes for power—
With pomp for freedom, gaolers for a council,
Inquisitors for friends—and hell for life!
I had one only fount of quiet left, [gods
And *that* they poison'd! My pure household
Were shiver'd on my hearth, and o'er their shrine
Sate grinning Ribaldry and sneering Scorn.
I. Ber. You have been deeply wrong'd, and now shall be
Nobly avenged before another night. [it
Doge. I had borne all—it hurt me, but I bore
Till this last running over of the cup
Of bitterness—until this last loud insult,
Not only unredress'd, but sanction'd; then,
And thus, I cast all further feeling from me—
The feelings which they crush'd for me, long, long
Before, even in their oath of false allegiance!
Even in that very hour and vow, they abjured
Their friend and made a sovereign, as boys make [broken!
Playthings, to do their pleasure—and be
I from that hour have seen but senators
In dark suspicious conflict with the Doge
Brooding with him in mutual hate and fear;
They dreading he should snatch the tyranny
From out their grasp, and he abhorring tyrants.
To me, then, these men have no *private* life,
Nor claim to ties they have cut off from others;
As senators for arbitrary acts
Amenable, I look on them—as such
Let them be dealt upon.
Cal. And now to action!
Hence, brethren, to our posts, and may this be
The last night of mere words: I'd fain be doing! [wakeful!
Saint Mark's great bell at dawn shall find me
I. Ber. Disperse then to your posts: be firm and vigilant; [claim,
Think on the wrongs we bear, the rights we
This day and night shall be the last of peril!
Watch for the signal, and then march. I go
To join my band; let each be prompt to marshal [turn
His separate charge; the Doge will now re-
To the palace to prepare all for the blow.
We part to meet in freedom and in glory!
Cal. Doge, when I greet you next, my homage to you
Shall be the head of Steno on this sword!
Doge. No; let him be reserved unto the last,
Nor turn aside to strike at such a prey

Till nobler game is quarried: his offence
Was a mere ebullition of the vice,
The general corruption, generated
By the foul aristocracy: he could not—
He dared not in more honorable days
Have risk'd it. I have merged all private wrath [pose.
Against him in the thought of our great pur-
A slave insults me—I require his punishment
From his proud master's hands; if he refuse it,
The offence grows his, and let him answer it.
Cal. Yet, as the immediate cause of the alliance
Which consecrates our undertaking more,
I owe him such deep gratitude, that fain
I would repay him as he merits; may I?
Doge. You would but lop the hand, and I the head;
You would but smite the scholar, I the master;
You would but punish Steno, I the senate.
I cannot pause on individual hate,
In the absorbing, sweeping, whole revenge,
Which, like the sheeted fire from heaven, must blast
Without distinction, as it fell of yore,
Where the Dead Sea hath quench'd two cities' ashes. [remain
I. Ber. Away, then, to your posts! I but
A moment to accompany the Doge
To our late place of tryst, to see no spies
Have been upon the scout, and thence I hasten
To where my allotted band is under arms.
Cal. Farewell, then,—until dawn!
I. Ber. Success go with you.
Consp. We will not fail—Away! My lord, farewell!

[*The Conspirators salute the* Doge *and* Israel Bertuccio, *and retire, headed by* Philip Calendaro. *The* Doge *and* Israel Bertuccio *remain.*

I. Ber. We have them in the toil—It cannot fail!
Now thou'rt indeed a sovereign, and wilt make
A name immortal greater than the greatest:
Free citizens have struck at kings ere now;
Cæsars have fall'n, and even patrician hands
Have crush'd dictators, as the popular steel
Has reach'd patricians: but, until this hour,
What prince has plotted for his people's free-
Or risk'd a life to liberate his subjects? [dom?
Forever, and forever, they conspire
Against the people, to abuse their hands
To chains, but laid aside to carry weapons
Against the fellow nations, so that yoke
On yoke, and slavery and death may whet,
Not glut, the never-gorged Leviathan!
Now, my lord, to our enterprise—'tis great,
And greater the reward; why stand you rapt?
A moment back, and you were all impatience!
Doge. And is it then decided! must they
I. Ber. Who? [die?
Doge. My own friends by blood and courtesy,
And many deeds and days—the senators?
I. Ber. You pass'd their sentence, and it is a just one.

Doge. Ay, so it seems, and so it is to *you;*
You are a patriot, plebeian Gracchus—
The rebels' oracle, the people's tribune—
I blame you not—you act in your vocation;
They smote you, and oppress'd you, and despised you; [them;
So they have *me:* but you ne'er spake with
You never broke their bread, nor shared their salt;
You never had their wine-cup at your lips;
You grew not up with them, nor laugh'd nor wept,
Nor held a revel in their company;
Ne'er smiled to see them smile, nor claim'd their smile
In social interchange for yours, nor trusted
Nor wore them in your heart of hearts, as I have.
These hairs of mine are grey, and so are theirs,
The elders of the Council: I remember
When all our locks were like the raven's wing
As we went forth to take our prey around
The isles wrung from the false Mahometan;
And can I see them dabbled o'er with blood?
Each stab to them will seem my suicide.
I. Ber. Doge! Doge! this vacillation is unworthy
A child; if you are not in second childhood,
Call back your nerves to your own purpose, nor [I'd rather
Thus shame yourself and me. By heavens!
Forego even now, or fail in our intent,
Than see the man I venerate subside
From high resolves into such shallow weakness!
You have seen blood in battle, shed it, both
Your own and that of others; can you shrink then [pires,
From a few drops from veins of hoary vam-
Who but give back what they have drain'd from millions? [blow on blow,
Doge. Bear with me! step by step, and
I will divide with you; think not I waver.
Ah! no; it is the *certainty* of all [thus.
Which I must do doth make me tremble
But let these last and lingering thoughts have way,
To which you only and the night are conscious,
And both regardless: when the hour arrives,
'Tis mine to sound the knell and strike the
Which shall unpeople many palaces, [blow,
And hew the highest genealogic trees
Down to the earth, strew'd with their bleeding fruit,
And crush their blossoms into barrenness;
This will I—must I—have I sworn to do,
Nor aught can turn me from my destiny;
But still I quiver to behold what I
Must be, and think what I have been! Bear with me. [remorse,
I. Ber. Re-man your breast; I feel no such
I understand it not! why should you change?
You acted, and you act, on your free will.
Doge. Ay, there it is—*you* feel not, nor do I,
Else I should stab thee on the spot, to save
A thousand lives, and killing, do no murder;
You *feel* not—*you* go to this butcher work

As if these high-born men were steers for shambles!
When all is over you'll be free and merry,
And calmly wash those hands incarnadine;
But I, outgoing thee and all thy fellows
In this surpassing massacre, shall be,
Shall see and feel—oh God! oh God! 'tis true,
And thou dost well to answer that it was
"My own free will and act," and yet you err,
For I *will* do this! Doubt not—fear not; I
Will be your most unmerciful accomplice!
And yet I act no more on my free will, [back;
Nor on my own feelings—both compel me
But there is *hell* within me and around [bles,
And like the demon who believes and trem-
Must I abhor and do. Away! away!
Get thee unto thy fellows, I will hie me
To gather the retainers of our house.
Doubt not, St. Mark's great bell shall wake all Venice,
Except her slaughter'd senate: ere the sun
Be broad upon the Adriatic there
Shall be a voice of weeping, which shall drown
The roar of waters in the cry of blood!
I am resolved—come on.

I. Ber. With all my soul!
Keep a firm rein upon these bursts of passion;
Remember what these men have dealt to thee
And that this sacrifice will be succeeded
By ages of prosperity and freedom
To this unshackled city: a true tyrant
Would have depopulated empires, nor
Have felt the strange compunction which hath wrung you
To punish a few traitors to the people.
Trust me, such were a pity more misplaced
Than the late mercy of the state to Steno.

Doge. Man, thou hast struck upon the chord which jars
All nature from my heart. Hence to our task!
[*Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*Palazzo of the Patrician* LIONI. LIONI *laying aside the mask and cloak which the Venetian nobles wore in public, attended by a Domestic.*

Lioni. I will to rest, right weary of this revel,
The gayest we have held in many moons,
And yet, I know not why, it cheered me not:
There came a heaviness across my heart,
Which in the lightest movements of the dance,
Though eye to eye, and hand in hand united
Even with the lady of my love, oppress'd me,
And through my spirit chill'd my blood, until
A damp like death rose o'er my brow; I strove
To laugh the thought away, but 'twould not
Through all the music ringing in my ears [be;
A knell was sounding as distinct and clear,
Though low and far, as e'er the Adrian wave
Rose o'er the city's murmur in the night,
Dashing against the outward Lido's bulwark:
So that I felt the festival before
It reached its zenith, and will woo my pillow
For thoughts more tranquil, or forgetfulness.
Antonio, take my mask and cloak, and light
The lamp within my chamber.

Ant. Yes, my lord;
Command you no refreshment?

Lioni. Nought save sleep,
Which will not be commanded. Let me hope it. [*Exit* ANTONIO.
Though my breast feels too anxious, I will try
Whether the air will calm my spirits: 'tis
A goodly night; the cloudy wind which blew
From the Levant hath crept into its cave,
And the broad moon has brighten'd. What a stillness! [*Goes to an open lattice.*
And what a contrast with the scene I left,
When the tall torches glare, and silver lamps
More pallid gleam along the tapestried walls,
Spread over the reluctant gloom which haunts
Those vast and dimly-latticed galleries
A dazzling mass of artificial light,
Which showed all things, but nothing as they
There Age essaying to recall the past, [were.
After long striving for the hues of youth
At the sad labor of the toilet, and
Full many a glance at the too faithful mirror.
Prank'd forth in all the pride of ornament,
Forgot itself, and trusting to the falsehood
Of the indulgent beams, which show, yet hide,
Believ'd itself forgotten, and was fool'd.
There Youth, which needed not, nor thought of such [health,
Vain adjuncts, lavish'd its true bloom, and
And bridal beauty, in the unwholesome press
Of flush'd and crowded wassailers, and wasted
Its hours of rest in dreaming this was pleasure; [streams
And so shall waste them till the sunrise
On sallow cheeks and sunken eyes, which should not
Have worn this aspect yet for many a year.
The music, and the banquet, and the wine,—
The garlands, the rose odors, and the flowers,—
The sparkling eyes, and flashing ornaments,—
The white arms and the raven hair—the braids
And bracelets; swanlike bosoms, and the necklace,
An India in itself, yet dazzling not
The eye like what it circled; the thin robes
Floating like light clouds 'twixt our gaze and heaven; [like,
The many-twinkling feet so small and sylph-
Suggesting the more secret symmetry
Of the fair forms which terminate so well—
All the delusion of the dizzy scene, [nature,
Its false and true enchantments; art and
Which swam before my giddy eyes, that drank
The sight of beauty as the parch'd pilgrim's
On Arab sands the false mirage, which offers
A lucid lake to his eluded thirst, [waters;
Are gone. Around me are the stars and
Worlds mirror'd in the ocean, goodlier sight
Than torches glared back by a gaudy glass;
And the great element, which is to space
What ocean is to earth, spreads its blue depths,

Soften'd with the first breathings of the spring;
The high moon sails upon her beauteous way,
Serenely smoothing o'er the lofty walls
Of those tall piles and sea-girt palaces,
Whose porphyry pillars, and whose costly fronts,
Fraught with the orient spoil of many marbles,
Like altars ranged along the broad canal,
Seem each a trophy of some mighty deed
Rear'd up from out the waters, scarce less strangely
Than those more massy and mysterious giants
Of architecture, those Titanian fabrics, [have
Which point in Egypt's plains to times that
No other record. All is gentle: nought
Stirs rudely: but, congenial with the night,
Whatever walks is gliding like a spirit.
The tinklings of some vigilant guitars
Of sleepless lovers to a wakeful mistress, [ing
And cautious opening of the casement, show-
That he is not unheard; while her young hand,
Fair as the moonlight of which it seems part,
So delicately white, it trembles in
The act of opening the forbidden lattice,
To let in love through music, making his heart
Thrill like his lyre-strings at the sight; the
Phosphoric of the oar, or rapid twinkle [dash
Of the far lights of skimming gondolas,
And the responsive voices of the choir [verse;
Of boatmen answering back with verse for
Some dusky shadow checkering the Rialto;
Some glimmering palace roof, or tapering spire, [vade
Are all the sights and sounds which here per-
The ocean-born and earth-commanding city—
How sweet and soothing is this hour of calm!
I thank thee, Night! for thou hast chased away
Those horrid bodements which, amidst the throng,
I could not dissipate: and with the blessing
Of thy benign and quiet influence,
Nor will I to my couch, although to rest
Is almost wronging such a night as this.—
[*A knocking is heard from without.*
Hark! what is that? or who at such a moment?

Enter ANTONIO.

Ant. My lord, a man without, on urgent
Implores to be admitted. [business
Lioni. Is he a stranger?
Ant. His face is muffled in his cloak, but both
His voice and gestures seem familiar to me:
I craved his name, but this he seem'd reluctant
To trust, save to yourself; most earnestly
He sues to be permitted to approach you.
Lioni. 'Tis a strange hour, and a suspicious bearing!
And yet there is slight peril; 'tis not in
Their houses noble men are struck at; still,
Although I know not that I have a foe
In Venice, 'twill be wise to use some caution.
Admit him and retire: but call up quickly
Some of thy fellows, who may wait without.—
Who can this man be?—

Exit ANTONIO, *and return with* BERTRAM *muffled.*

Ber. My good lord Lioni,
I have no time to lose, nor thou,—dismiss
This menial hence; I would be private with you. [Antonio.
Lioni. It seems the voice of Bertram—Go;
[*Exit* ANTONIO.
Now, stranger, what would you at such an hour?
Ber. [*Discovering himself.*] A boon, my noble patron; you have granted
Many to your poor client, Bertram; add
This one, and make him happy.
Lioni. Thou hast known me
From boyhood, ever ready to assist thee
In all fair objects of advancement, which
Beseem one of thy station; I would promise
Ere thy request was heard, but that the hour,
Thy bearing, and this strange and hurried mode
Of suing, gives me to suspect this visit
Hath some mysterious import—but say on—
What has occurr'd, some rash and sudden broil?—
A cup too much, a scuffle, and a stab,— [not
Mere things of every day; so that thou hast
Spilt noble blood, I guarantee thy safety;
But then thou must withdraw, for angry friends
And relatives, in the first burst of vengeance,
Are things in Venice deadlier than the laws.
Ber. My lord, I thank you, but—
Lioni. But what? You have not
Raised a rash hand against one of our order?
If so, withdraw and fly, and own it not;
I would not slay—but then I must not save
He who has shed patrician blood— [thee!
Ber. I come
To save patrician blood, and not to shed it!
And thereunto I must be speedy, for
Each minute lost may lose a life; since Time
Has changed his slow scythe for the two-edged sword,
And is about to take, instead of sand,
The dust from sepulchres to fill his hour-
Go not *thou* forth to-morrow! [glass!—
Lioni. Wherefore not?
What means this menace?
Ber. Do not seek its meaning,
But do as I implore thee;—stir not forth,
Whate'er be stirring; though the roar of crowds—
The cry of women and the shrieks of babes—
The groans of men—the clash of arms—the sound
Of rolling drum, shrill trump, and hollow bell,
Peal in one wide alarm!—Go not forth,
Until the tocsin's silent, nor even then
Till I return.
Lioni. Again, what does this mean?
Ber. Again, I tell thee, ask not; but by all
Thou holdest dear on earth or heaven—by all
The souls of thy great fathers, and thy hope
To emulate them, and to leave behind
Descendants worthy both of them and thee—

By all thou hast of bless'd, in hope or memory—
By all thou hast to fear here or hereafter—
By all the good deeds thou hast done to me,
Good I would now repay with greater good,
Remain within—trust to thy household gods,
And to my word for safety, if thou dost
As I now counsel—but if not, thou art lost!

Lioni. I am indeed already lost in wonder,
Surely thou ravest! what have *I* to dread?
Who are my foes? or if there be such, *why*
Art *thou* leagued with them?—*thou!* or if so leagued,
Why comest thou to tell me at this hour,
And not before?

Ber. I cannot answer this.
Wilt thou go forth in spite of this true warning? [threats,

Lioni. I was not born to shrink from idle
The cause of which I know not: at the hour
Of council, be it soon or late, I shall not
Be found among the absent.

Ber. Say not so!
Once more, art thou determined to go forth?

Lioni. I am. Nor is there aught which shall impede me! [soul!—Farewell!

Ber. Then, Heaven have mercy on thy [*Going.*

Lioni. Stay—there is more in this than my own safety [part thus:
Which makes me call thee back; we must not
Bertram, I have known thee long.

Ber. From childhood, signor,
You have been my protector; in the days
Of reckless infancy, when rank forgets,
Or, rather, is not yet taught to remember,
Its cold prerogative, we play'd together; [oft;
Our sports, our smiles, our tears, were mingled
My father was your father's client, I
His son's scarce less than foster-brother; years
Saw us together—happy, heart-full hours!
Oh God! the difference 'twixt those hours and this! [them.

Lioni. Bertram, 'tis thou who hast forgotten

Ber. Nor now, nor ever; whatsoe'er betide,
I would have saved you; when to manhood's growth
We sprung, and you, devoted to the state,
As suits your station, the more humble Bertram
Was left unto the labors of the humble,
Still thou forsook me not; and if my fortunes
Have not been towering, 'twas no fault of him
Who ofttimes rescued and supported me
When struggling with the tides of circumstance
Which bear away the weaker: noble blood
Ne'er mantled in a nobler heart than thine
Has proved to me, the poor plebeian Bertram.
Would that thy fellow-senators were like thee!

Lioni. Why, what hast thou to say against

Ber. Nothing. [the senate?

Lioni. I know that there are angry spirits
And turbulent mutterers of stifled treason,
Who lurk in narrow places, and walk out
Muffled to whisper curses to the night;
Disbanded soldiers, discontented ruffians,
And desperate libertines who brawl in taverns;
Thou herdest not with such: 'tis true, of late
I have lost sight of thee, but thou wert wont
To lead a temperate life, and break thy bread
With honest mates, and bear a cheerful aspect.
What hath come to thee? In thy hollow eye
And hueless cheek, and thine unquiet motions,
Sorrow and shame and conscience seem at war
To waste thee.

Ber. Rather shame and sorrow light
On the accursed tyranny which rides
The very air in Venice, and makes men
Madden as in the last hours of the plague
Which sweeps the soul deliriously from life!

Lioni. Some villains have been tampering with thee, Bertram; [thoughts;
This is not thy own language, nor own
Some wretch has made thee drunk with disaffection:
But thou must not be lost so; thou *wert* good
And kind, and art not fit for such base acts
As vice and villainy would put thee to;
Confess—confide in me—thou knows't my nature—
What is it thou and thine are bound to do,
Which should prevent thy friend, the only son
Of him who was a friend unto thy father,
So that our good-will is a heritage
We should bequeath to our posterity
Such as ourselves received it, or augmented;
I say, what is it thou must do, that I [house
Should deem thee dangerous, and keep the
Like a sick girl?

Ber. Nay, question me no further;
I must be gone.—

Lioni. And I be murder'd!—say,
Was it not thus thou saidst, my gentle Bertram? [murder?—

Ber. Who talks of murder? what said I of
'Tis false, I did not utter such a word.

Lioni. Thou did'st not; but from out thy wolfish eye, [forth
So changed from what I knew it, there glares
The gladiator. If *my* life's thine object,
Take it—I am unarm'd—and then away!
I would not hold my breath on such a tenure
As the capricious mercy of such things
As thou and those who have set thee to thy taskwork. [mine;

Ber. Sooner than spill thy blood, I peril
Sooner than harm a hair of thine, I place
In jeopardy a thousand heads, and some
As noble, nay, even nobler than thine own.

Lioni. Ay, is it even so? Excuse me, Ber-
I am not worthy to be singled out [tram,
From such exalted hecatombs—who are they
That *are* in danger, and that *make* the danger?

Ber. Venice, and all that she inherits, are
Divided like a house against itself,
And so will perish ere to-morrow's twilight!

Lioni. More mysteries, and awful ones.
Or thou, or I or both it may be, are [But now
Upon the verge of ruin; speak once out,
And thou art safe and glorious; for 'tis more
Glorious to save than slay, and slay i' the dark too—
Fie, Bertram! that was not a craft for thee!

How would it look to see upon a spear
The head of him whose heart was open to thee
Borne by thy hand before the shuddering people?
And such may be my doom; for here I swear,
Whate'er the peril or the penalty
Of thy denunciation, I go forth,
Unless thou dost detail the cause, and show
The consequence of all which led thee here!
Ber. Is there no way to serve thee? minutes fly,
And thou art lost! *thou!* my sole benefactor,
The only being who was constant to me
Through every change. Yet make me not a traitor!
Let me save thee—but spare my honor!
Lioni. Where
Can lie the honor in a league of murder?
And who are traitors save unto the state?
Ber. A league is still a compact, and more binding [law;
In honest hearts when words must stand for
And in my mind there is no traitor like
He whose domestic treason plants the poniard
Within the breast which trusted to his truth.
Lioni. And *who* will strike the steel to mine?
Ber. Not I;
I could have wound my soul up to all things
Save this. *Thou* must not die! and think how
Thy life is, when I risk so many lives, [dear
Nay, more, the life of lives, the liberty
Of future generations, *not* to be [more
The assassin thou miscall'st me:—once, once
I do adjure thee, pass not o'er thy threshold!
Lioni. It is in vain—this moment I go forth.
Ber. Then perish Venice rather than my friend!
I will disclose—ensnare—betray—destroy—
Oh, what a villain I became for thee!
Lioni. Say, rather, thy friend's saviour and the state's!— [for
Speak—pause not—all rewards, all pledges
Thy safety and thy welfare; wealth such as
The state accords her worthiest servants; nay,
Nobility itself I guarantee thee,
So that thou art sincere and penitent.
Ber. I have thought again; it must not be—
I love thee— [proof,
Thou know'st it—that I stand here is the
Not least, though last; but having done my duty
By thee, I now must do it to my country!
Farewell!—we meet no more in life!—farewell! [door
Lioni. What, ho!—Antonio—Pedro—to the
See that none pass—arrest this man!—

Enter ANTONIO *and other armed Domestics who seize* BERTRAM.

Lioni [*continues*]. Take care
He hath no harm—bring me my sword and cloak,
And man the gondola with four oars—quick—
[*Exit* ANTONIO.
We will unto Giovanni Gradenigo's; [tram,
And send for Marc Cornaro; fear not, Ber-
This needful violence is for thy safety,
No less than for the general weal.
Ber. Where wouldst thou
Bear me a prisoner?
Lioni. Firstly to "the Ten";
Next to the Doge.
Ber. To the Doge?
Lioni. Assuredly:
Is he not chief of the state?
Ber. Perhaps at sunrise—
Lioni. What mean you?—but we'll know anon.
Ber. Art sure?
Lioni. Sure as all gentle means can make; and if [bunal,
They fail, you know "the Ten" and their tri-
And that St. Mark has dungeons, and the
A rack. [dungeons
Ber. Apply it then before the dawn
Now hastening into heaven.—One more such word
And you shall perish piecemeal, by the death
You think to doom to me.

Re-enter ANTONIO.

Ant. The bark is ready,
My lord, and all prepared.
Lioni. Look to the prisoner.
Bertram, I'll reason with thee as we go
To the Magnifico's, sage Gradenigo. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—*The Ducal Palace.—The Doge's Apartment.*

The DOGE *and his Nephew,* BERTUCCIO FALIERO.

Doge. Are all the people of our house in muster? [signal,
Ber. F. They are array'd, and eager for the
Within our palace precincts at San Polo—*
I come for your last orders.
Doge. It had been
As well had there been time to have got together
From my own fief, Val di Marino, more
Of our retainers—but it is too late. [is:
Ber. F. Methinks, my lord, 'tis better as it
A sudden swelling of our retinue [trusty,
Had waked suspicion; and, though fierce and
The vassals of that district are too rude
And quick in quarrel to have long maintain'd
The secret discipline we need for such
A service till our foes are dealt upon.
Doge. True; but when once the signal has been given,
These are the men for such an enterprise;
These city slaves have all their private bias,
Their prejudice *against* or *for* this noble,
Which may induce them to o'erdo or spare
Where mercy may be madness; the fierce peasants,
Serfs of my county of Val di Marino,
Would do the bidding of their lord without
Distinguishing for love or hate his foes:
Alike to them Marcello or Cornaro,
A Gradenigo or a Foscari;

*The Doge's family palace.

They are not used to start at such vain names,
Nor bow the knee before a civic senate;
A chief in armor is their Suzerain,
And not a thing in robes.
Ber. F. We are enough;
And for the dispositions of our clients
Against the senate I will answer.
Doge. Well,
The die is thrown; but for a warlike service,
Done in the field, commend me to my peasants:
They made the sun shine through the host of Huns [tents,
When sallow burghers slunk back to their
And cower'd to hear their own victorious trumpet.
If there be small resistance you will find
These citizens all lions, like their standard;
But if there's much to do, you'll wish, with
A band of iron rustics at our backs. [me,
Ber. F. Thus thinking, I must marvel you
To strike the blow so suddenly. [resolve
Doge. Such blows
Must be struck suddenly or never. When
I had o'ermaster'd the weak false remorse
Which yearn'd about my heart, too fondly yielding
A moment to the feeling of old days,
I was most fain to strike; and firstly that
I might not yield again to such emotions;
And secondly, because of all these men,
Save Israel and Philip Calendaro,
I know not well the courage or the faith;
To-day might find 'mongst them a traitor to
As yesterday a thousand to the senate; [us,
But once in, with their hilts hot in their hands,
They must *on* for their own sakes: one stroke struck,
And the mere instinct of the first-born Cain,
Which ever lurks somewhere in human hearts,
Though circumstance may keep it in abeyance,
Will urge the rest on like to wolves; the sight
Of blood to crowds begets the thirst of more,
As the first wine-cup leads to the long revel;
And you will find a harder task to quell
Than urge them when they *have* commenced, but *till*
That moment, a mere voice, a straw, a shadow,
Are capable of turning them aside,—
How goes the night?
Ber. F. Almost upon the dawn.
Doge. Then it is time to strike upon the bell.
Are the men posted?
Ber. F. By this time they are;
But they have orders not to strike, until
They have command from you through me in person. [to rest
Doge. 'Tis well.—Will the morn never put
These stars which twinkle yet o'er all the heavens?
I am settled and bound up, and being so,
The very effort which it cost me to [fire,
Resolve to cleanse this commonwealth with
Now leaves my mind more steady. I have wept [duty;
And trembled at the thought of this dread
But now I have put down all idle passion,
And looking the growing tempest in the face,
As doth the pilot of an admiral galley: [been
Yet (wouldst thou think it, kinsman?) it hath
A greater struggle to me, than when nations
Beheld their fate merged in the approaching fight,
Where I was leader of a phalanx, where
Thousands were sure to perish—Yes, to spill
The rank polluted current from the veins
Of a few bloated despots needed more
To steel me to a purpose such as made
Timoleon immortal, than to face
The toils and dangers of a life of war.
Ber. F. It gladdens me to see your former wisdom
Subdue the furies which so wrung you ere
You were decided.
Doge. It was ever thus
With me; the hour of agitation came
In the first glimmerings of a purpose, when
Passion had too much room to sway; but in
The hour of action I have stood as calm
As were the dead who lay round me: this
They knew who made me what I am, and trusted
To the subduing power which I preserved
Over my mood, when its first burst was spent,
But they were not aware that there are things
Which make revenge a virtue by reflection,
And not an impulse of mere anger; though
The law sleeps, justice wakes and injured souls
Oft do a public right with private wrong,
And justify their deeds unto themselves.—
Methinks the day breaks—is it not so? look,
Thine eyes are clear with youth;—the air puts
A morning freshness, and, at least to me [on
The sea looks greyer through the lattice.
Ber. F. True,
The morn is dappling in the sky.
Doge. Away then!
See that they strike without delay, and with
The first toll from St. Mark's, march on the palace [meet you—
With all our house's strength; here I will
The Sixteen and their companies will move
In separate columns at the self-same moment—
Be sure you post yourself at the great gate:
I would not trust "the Ten" except to us—
The rest, the rabble of patricians, may
Glut the more careless swords of those leagued with us.
Remember that the cry is still "Saint Mark!
The Genoese are come—ho! to the rescue!
Saint Mark and Liberty!"—Now—now to action! [will meet
Ber. F. Farewell then, noble uncle! we
In freedom and true sovereignty, or never!
Doge. Come hither, my Bertuccio—one embrace— [soon
Speed, for the days grows broader—send me
A messenger to tell me how all goes [sound
When you rejoin our troops, and then sound—
The storm-bell from Saint Mark's!
[*Exit* Bertuccio Faliero,

Doge. [*solus.*] He is gone.
And on each footstep moves a life. 'Tis done.
Now the destroying angel hovers o'er
Venice, and pauses ere he pours the vial,
Even as the eagle overlooks his prey,
And for a moment, poised in middle air,
Suspends the motion of his mighty wings,
Then swoops with his unerring beak. Thou day! [march on—
That slowly walk'st the waters! march—
I would not smite i' the dark, but rather see
That no stroke errs. And you, ye blue sea waves!
I have seen you dyed ere now, and deeply too,
With Genoese, Saracen, and Hunnish gore,
While that of Venice flow'd too, but victorious;
Now thou must wear an unmix'd crimson; no
Barbaric blood can reconcile us now
Unto that horrible incarnadine,
But friend or foe will roll in civic slaughter.
And have I lived to fourscore years for this?
I, who was named Preserver of the City?
I, at whose name the million's caps were flung
Into the air, and cries from tens of thousands
Rose up, imploring Heaven to send me blessings, [day?
And fame, and length of days—to see this
But this day, black within the calendar,
Shall be succeeded by a bright millennium.
Doge Dandolo survived to ninety summers
To vanquish empires, and refuse their crown;
I will resign a crown, and make the state
Renew its freedom—but oh! by what means
The noble end must justify them—What
Are a few drops of human blood? 'tis false,
The blood of tyrants is not human; they,
Like to incarnate Molochs, feed on ours,
Until 'tis time to give them to the tombs
Which they have made so populous.—O world!
O men! what are ye, and our best designs,
That we must work by crime to punish crime?
And slay as if Death had but this one gate,
When a few years would make the sword superfluous?
And I upon the verge of th' unknown realm,
Yet send so many heralds on before me?—
I must not ponder this. [*A pause.*
Hark! was there not
A murmur as of distant voices, and
The tramp of feet in martial unison? [raise?
What phantoms even of sound our wishes
It cannot be—the signal hath not rung—
Why pauses it? My nephew's messenger
Should be upon his way to me, and he
Himself perhaps even now draws grating back
Upon its ponderous hinge the steep tower portal
Where swings the sullen huge oracular bell,
Which never knells but for a princely death,
Or for a state in peril, pealing forth
Tremendous bodements; let it do its office,
And be this peal its awfullest and last.
Sound till the strong tower rock!—What! silent still?
I would go forth, but that my post is here,
To be the centre of re-union to
The oft discordant elements which form
Leagues of this nature, and to keep compact
The wavering or the weak, in case of conflict;
For if they should do battle, 'twill be here,
Within the palace, that the strife will thicken:
Then here must be my station, as becomes
The master-mover.—Hark! he comes—he comes,
My nephew, brave Bertuccio's messenger.—
What tidings? Is he marching? hath he sped?
They here!—all's lost—yet will I make an effort.

Enter a SIGNOR OF THE NIGHT, *with Guards, etc., etc.*

Sig. Doge, I arrest thee of high treason!
Doge. Me!
Thy prince, of treason?—Who are they that dare
Cloak their own treason under such an order?
Sig. [*showing his order.*] Behold my order from the assembled Ten.
Doge. And *where* are they, and *why* assembled? no
Such council can be lawful till the prince
Preside there, and that duty's mine: on thine
I charge thee, give me way, or marshal me
To the council chamber.
Sig. Duke! it may not be:
Nor are they in the wonted Hall of Council,
But sitting in the convent of Saint Saviour's.
Doge. You dare to disobey me, then?
Sig. I serve
The state, and needs must serve it faithfully:
My warrant is the will of those who rule it.
Doge. And till that warrant has my signature
It is illegal, and, as *now* applied, [worth,
Rebellious.—Hast thou weigh'd well thy life's
That thus you dare assume a lawless function?
Sig. 'Tis not my office to reply, but act—
I am placed here as guard upon thy person,
And not as judge to hear or to decide.
Doge. [*aside.*] I must gain time. So that the storm bell sound, [—speed!—
All may be well yet.—Kinsman, speed—speed
Our fate is trembling in the balance, and
Woe to the vanquish'd! be they prince and
Or slaves and senate— [people,
[*The great bell of St. Mark's tolls.*
Lo! it sounds—it tolls!
[*Aloud.*] Hark, Signor of the Night! and you, ye hirelings,
Who wield your mercenary staves in fear,
It is your knell—Swell on, thou lusty peal!
Now, knaves, what ransom for your lives?
Sig. Confusion!
Stand to your arms, and guard the door—all's lost
Unless that fearful bell be silenced soon.
The officer hath miss'd his path or purpose,
Or met some unforeseen and hideous obstacle.
Anselmo, with thy company proceed
Straight to the tower; the rest remain with me, [*Exit part of the Guard.*

Doge. Wretch! if thou wouldst have thy vile life, implore it;
It is not now a lease of sixty seconds.
Ay, send thy miserable ruffians forth;
They never shall return.
Sig. So let it be!
They die then in their duty, as will I. [game
Doge. Fool! the high eagle flies at nobler
Than thou and thy base myrmidons,—live on,
So thou provok'st not peril by resistance,
And learn (if souls so much obscured can bear
To gaze upon the sunbeams) to be free.
Sig. And learn thou to be captive.—It hath ceased, [*The bell ceases to toll.*
The traitorous signal, which was to have set
The bloodhound mob on their patrician prey—
The knell hath rung, but it is not the senate's!
Doge [*after a pause.*] All's silent, and all's lost!
Sig. Now, Doge, denounce me
As a rebel slave of a revolted council!
Have I not done my duty?
Doge. Peace, thou thing!
Thou hast done a worthy deed, and earn'd the price [thee.
Of blood, and they who use thee will reward
But thou wert sent to watch, and not to prate,
As thou saidst even now—then do thine office,
But let it be in silence, as behooves thee,
Since, though thy prisoner, I am thy prince.
Sig. I did not mean to fail in the respect
Due to your rank: in this I shall obey you.
Doge [*aside*]. There now is nothing left me save to die;
And yet how near success! I would have fallen,
And proudly, in the hour of triumph, but
To miss it thus!—
Enter other Signors of the Night, *with* Bertuccio Faliero *prisoner.*
2*d Sig.* We took him in the act
Of issuing from the tower, where, at his order,
As delegated from the Doge, the signal
Had thus begun to sound.
1*st Sig.* Are all the passes
Which lead up to the palace well secured?
2*d Sig.* They are—besides, it matters not; the chiefs
Are all in chains, and some even now on trial—
Their followers are dispersed, and many taken.
Ber. F. Uncle!
Doge. It is in vain to war with Fortune;
The glory hath departed from our house.
Ber F. Who would have deem'd it?—Ah! one moment sooner! [face of ages;
Doge. That moment would have changed the
This gives us to eternity—We'll meet it
As men whose triumph is not in success,
But who can make their own minds all in all,
Equal to every fortune. Droop not, 'tis
But a brief passage—I would go alone,
Yet if they send us, as 'tis like, together,
Let us go worthy of our sires and selves.
Ber. F. I shall not shame you, uncle.
1*st Sig.* Lords, our orders
Are to keep guard on both in separate chambers,
Until the council call ye to your trial. [ery up
Doge. Our trial! will they keep their mock-
Even to the last? but let them deal upon us,
As we had dealt on them, but with less pomp.
'Tis but a game of mutual homicides,
Who have cast lots for the first death, and they [our Judas?
Have won with false dice.—Who hath been
1*st Sig.* I am not warranted to answer that.
Ber. F. I'll answer for thee—'tis a certain Bertram,
Even now deposing to the secret giunta.
Doge. Bertram, the Bergamask! With what vile tools
We operate to slay or save! This creature,
Black with a double treason, now will earn
Rewards and honors, and be stamp'd in story
With the geese in the Capitol, which gabbled
Till Rome awoke, and had an annual triumph,
While Manlius, who hurl'd down the Gauls, was cast
From the Tarpeian.
1*st Sig.* He aspired to treason,
And sought to rule the state.
Doge. He saved the state,
And sought but to reform what he revived—
But this is idle—Come, sirs, do your work.
1*st Sig.* Noble Bertuccio, we must now remove you
Into an inner chamber.
Ber. F. Farewell, uncle!
If we shall meet again in life I know not,
But they perhaps will let our ashes mingle.
Doge. Yes, and our spirits, which shall yet go forth, [fail'd in!
And do what our frail clay, thus clogg'd, hath
They cannot quench the memory of those
Who would have hurl'd them from their guilty thrones, [distant.
And such examples will find heirs, though

ACT V.

Scene I.—*The Hall of the Council of Ten assembled with the additional Senators, who, on the Trials of the Conspirators for the Treason of* Marino Faliero, *composed what was called the Giunta.—Guards, Officers, etc., etc.*—Israel Bertuccio *and* Philip Calendaro *as Prisoners.*—Bertram, Lioni, *and Witnesses, Executioners, etc.*

The chief of the Ten, Benentende.

Ben. There now rests, after such conviction
Their manifold and manifest offences, [of
But to pronounce on these obdurate men
The sentence of the law; a grievous task
To those who hear, and those who speak. Alas!
That it should fall to me! and that my days
Of office should be stigmatized through all
The years of coming time, as bearing record
To this most foul and complicated treason
Against a just and free state, known to all
The earth as being the Christian bulwark 'gainst

The Saracen and the schismatic Greek,
The savage Hun, and not less barbarous Frank;
A city which has open'd India's wealth
To Europe; the last Roman refuge from
O'erwhelming Attila; the ocean's queen;
Proud Genoa's prouder rival! 'Tis to sap
The throne of such a city, these lost men
Have risk'd and forfeited their worthless lives—
So let them die the death.
I. Ber. We are prepared;
Your racks have done that for us. Let us die.
Ben. If ye have that to say which would obtain
Abatement of your punishment, the Giunta
Will hear you; if you have aught to confess,
Now is your time; perhaps it may avail ye.
I. Ber. We stand to hear, and not to speak.
Ben. Your crimes
Are fully proved by your accomplices,
And all of which circumstances can add to aid them.
Yet we would hear from your own lips complete
Avowal of your treason: on the verge of truth
Of that dread gulf which none repass, the
Alone can profit you on earth or heaven—
Say, then, what was your motive?
I. Ber. Justice!
Ben. What
Your object?
I. Ber. Freedom!
Ben. You are brief, sir.
I. Ber. So my life grows: I
Was bred a soldier, not a senator. [brevity
Ben. Perhaps you think by this blunt
To brave your judges to postpone the sentence?
I. Ber. Do you be brief as I am, and believe
I shall prefer that mercy to your pardon. [me
Ben. Is this your sole reply to the tribunal?
I. Ber. Go, ask your racks what they have wrung from us, [blood left,
Or place us there again; we have still some
And some slight sense of pain in these wrench'd limbs:
But this ye dare not do: for if we die there—
And you have left us little life to spend
Upon your engines, gorged with pangs already—
Ye lose the public spectacle, with which
You would appal your slaves to further slavery!
Groans are not words, nor agony assent,
Nor affirmation truth, if nature's sense
Should overcome the soul into a lie,
For a short respite—must we bear or die?
Ben. Say, who were your accomplices?
I. Ber. The senate!
Ben. What do you mean?
I. Ber. Ask of the suffering people,
Whom your patrician crimes have driven to
Ben. You know the Doge? [crime.
I. Ber. I served with him at Zara
In the field, when *you* were pleading here your way
To present office; we exposed our lives
While you but hazarded the lives of others,
Alike by accusation or defence;
And for the rest, all Venice knows her Doge,
Through his great actions, and the Senate's insults.
Ben. You have held conference with him?
I. Ber. I am weary—
Even wearier of your questions than your
I pray you pass to judgment. [tortures,
Ben. It is coming.
And you, too, Philip Calendaro, what [doom'd?
Have you to say why you should not be
Cal. I never was a man of many words,
And now have few left worth the utterance.
Ben. A further application of yon engine
May change your tone.
Cal. Most true, it *will* do so;
A former application did so; but
It will not change my words, or, if it did—
Ben. What then?
Cal. Will my avowal on yon rack
Stand good in law?
Ben. Assuredly.
Cal. Whoe'er
The culprit be whom I accuse of treason?
Ben. Without doubt he will be brought up to trial.
Cal. And on this testimony would he perish?
Ben. So your confession be detail'd and full.
He will stand here in peril of his life. [dent!
Cal. Then look well to thy proud self, Presi-
For by the eternity which yawns before me
I swear that *thou*, and only thou, shall be
The traitor I denounce upon that rack,
If I be stretch'd there for the second time.
One of the Giunta. Lord President, 'twere best to proceed to judgment;
There is no more to be drawn from these men.
Ben. Unhappy men! prepare for instant death.
The nature of your crime—our law—and peril
The state now stands in, leave not an hour's respite— [cony
Guards! lead them forth, and upon the balOf the red columns, where, on festal Thursday,
The Doge stands to behold the chase of bulls,
Let them be justified; and leave exposed
Their wavering relics, in the place of judgment,
To the full view of the assembled people!—
And Heaven have mercy on their souls!
The Giunta. Amen!
I. Ber. Signors, farewell! we shall not all
Meet in one place. [again
Ben. And lest they should essay
To stir up the distracted multitude— [act*
Guards! let their mouths be gagg'd even in the
Of execution. Lead them hence!
Cal. What, must we
Not even say farewell to some fond friend,
Nor leave a last word with our confessor?
Ben. A priest is waiting in the antechamber;
But, for your friends, such interviews would be
Painful to them, and useless all to you.

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* Historical fact. See Sanuto, Appendix, Note A.

Cal. I knew that we were gagg'd in life; at least
All those who had not heart to risk their lives
Upon their open thoughts; but still I deem'd
That in the last few moments, the same idle
Freedom of speech accorded to the dying,
Would not now be denied to us; but since—

I. Ber. Even let them have their way, brave Calendaro!
What matter a few syllables? let's die
Without the slightest show of favor from them;
So shall our blood more readily arise
To Heaven against them, and more testify
To their atrocities, than could a volume
Spoken or written of our dying words!
They tremble at our voices—nay, they dread
Our very silence—let them live in fear!—
Leave them unto their thoughts, and let us now
Address our own above!—Lead on; we are ready— [me

Cal. Israel, hast thou but hearken'd unto
It had not now been thus; and yon pale villain,
The coward Bertram, would—

I. Ber. Peace, Calendaro!
What brooks it now to ponder upon this!

Bert. Alas! I fain you died in peace with me: [me:
I did not seek this task; 'twas forced upon
Say, you forgive me, though I never can
Retrieve my own forgiveness—frown not thus.

I. Ber. I die and pardon thee!

Cal. [*spitting at him*]. I die and scorn thee!

[*Exeunt* Israel Bertuccio *and* Philip Calendaro, *Guards, etc.*

Ben. Now that these criminals have been disposed of.
'Tis time that we proceed to pass our sentence
Upon the greatest traitor upon record
In any annals, the Doge Faliero!
The proofs and process are complete; the time
And crime require a quick procedure; shall
He now be called in to receive the award?

The Giunta. Ay, ay.

Ben. Avogadori, order that the Doge
Be brought before the council.

One of the Giunta. And the rest,
When shall they be brought up?

Ben. When all the chiefs
Have been disposed of. Some have fled to Chiozza;
But there are thousands in pursuit of them,
And such precaution ta'en on terra firma,
As well in the islands, that we hope
None will escape to utter in strange lands
His libellous tale of treasons 'gainst the senate.

Enter the Doge *as Prisoner with Guards; etc., etc.*

Ben. Doge—for such still you are, and by the law
Must be consider'd, till the hour shall come
When you must doff the ducal bonnet from
That head, which could not wear a crown more noble
Than empires can confer, in quiet honor,
But it must plot to overthrow your peers,
Who made you what you are, and quench in
A city's glory—we have laid already [blood
Before you in your chamber at full length,
By the Avogadori, all the proofs [ample
Which have appear'd against you; and more
Ne'er rear'd their sanguinary shadows to
Confront a traitor. What have you to say
In your defence?

Doge. What shall I say to ye,
Since my defence must be your condemnation?
You are at once offenders and accusers,
Judges and executioners!—Proceed
Upon your power.

Ben. Your chief accomplices
Having confess'd, there is no hope for you.

Doge. And who be they?

Ben. In number many; but
The first now stands before you and the court,
Bertram of Bergamo,—would you question him?

Doge [*looking at him contemptuously*]. No.

Ben. And two others, Israel Bertuccio,
And Philip Calendaro, have admitted
Their fellowship in treason with the Doge.

Doge. And where are they?

Ben. Gone to their place, and now
Answering to Heaven for what they did on earth.

Doge. Ah! the plebeian Brutus, is he gone?
And the quick Cassius for the Arsenal?—
How did they meet their doom?

Ben. Think of your own:
It is approaching. You decline to plead, then?

Doge. I cannot plead to my inferiors, nor
Can recognize your legal power to try me.
Show me the law!

Ben. On great emergencies
The law must be remodell'd or amended;
Our fathers had not fix'd the punishment
Of such a crime, as on the old Roman tables
The sentence against parricide was left
In pure forgetfulness; they could not render
That penal, which had neither name nor thought [seen
In their great bosoms; who would have fore-
That nature could be filed to such a crime
As sons 'gainst sires and princes 'gainst their realms?
Your sin hath made us make a law which will
Become a precedent 'gainst such haught traitors,
As would with treason mount to tyranny;
Not even contented with a sceptre, till
They can convert it to a two-edged sword!
Was not the place of Doge sufficient for ye?
What's nobler than the signory of Venice?

Doge. The signory of Venice! You betray'd me—
You—*you*, who sit there traitors as ye are
From my equality with you in birth,
And my superiority in action,
You drew me from my honorable toils
In distant lands—on flood—in field—in cities—
You singled me out like a victim to [altar
Stand crown'd, but bound and helpless, at the

Where you alone could minister. I knew not,
I sought not,—wish'd not,—dream'd not the election,
Which reach'd me first at Rome, and I obey'd;
But found on my arrival, that, besides
The jealous vigilance which always led you
To mock and mar your sovereign's best in-
You had, even in the interregnum of [tents,
My journey to the capital, curtail'd
And mutilated the few privileges
Yet left the duke: all this I bore, and would
Have borne, until my very hearth was stain'd
By the pollution of your ribaldry,
And he the ribald, whom I see amongst you—
Fit judge in such tribunal!—

Ben. [*interrupting him*]. Michael Steno
Is here in virtue of his office, as
One of the Forty; "the Ten" having craved
A Giunta of patricians from the senate
To aid our judgment in a trial arduous
And novel as the present: he was set
Free from the penalty pronounced upon him
Because the Doge, who should protect the law,
Seeking to abrogate all law, can claim
No punishment of others by the statutes
Which he himself denies and violates!

Doge. His PUNISHMENT! I'd rather see him *there*
Where he now sits, to glut him with my death,
Than in the mockery of castigation, [justice
Which your foul, outward, juggling show of
Decreed as sentence! Base as was his crime,
'Twas purity compared with your protection.

Ben. And can it be, that the great Doge of Venice,
With three parts of a century of years
And honors on his head, could thus allow
His fury, like an angry boy's, to master
All feeling, wisdom, faith, and fear, on such
A provocation as a young man's petulance?

Doge. A spark creates the flame—'tis the last drop [full
Which makes the cup run o'er, and mine was
Already; you oppress'd the prince and people;
I would have freed both, and have fail'd in both: [glory,
The price of such success would have been
Vengeance and victory, and such a name
As would have made Venetian history
Rival to that of Greece and Syracuse [after;
When they were freed and flourish'd ages
And mine to Gelon and to Thrasybulus:—
Failing, I know the penalty of failure
Is present infamy and death—the future
Will judge when Venice is no more, or free;
Till then the truth is in obeyance. Pause not;
I would have shown no mercy and I seek none;
My life was staked upon a mighty hazard,
And being lost, take what I would have taken!
I would have stood alone amidst your tombs:
Now you may flock around mine and trample on it,
As you have done upon my heart while living.

Ben. You do confess then, and admit the
Of our tribunal? [justice

Doge. I confess to have fail'd;
Fortune is female: from my youth her favors
Were not withheld, the fault was mine to hope
Her former smiles again at this late hour.

Ben. You do not then in aught arraign our equity? [questions.

Doge. Noble Venetians! stir me not with
I am resign'd to the worst; but in me still
Have something of the blood of brighter days,
And am not over-patient. Pray you, spare me
Further interrogation, which boots nothing,
Except to turn a trial to debate.
I shall but answer that which will offend you,
And please your enemies—a host already;
'Tis true, these sullen walls should yield no echo: [tongues; and if
But walls have ears—nay, more, they have
There were no other way for truth to o'erleap them, [me,
You who condemn me, you who fear and slay
Yet could not bear in silence to your graves
What would you hear from me of good or evil.
The secret were too mighty for your souls:
Then let it sleep in mine, unless you court
A danger which would double that you escape;
Such my defence would be, had I full scope
To make it famous, for true *words* are *things*,
And dying men's are things which long outlive,
And oftentimes avenge them; bury mine,
If ye would fain survive me; take this counsel,
And though too oft ye made me live in wrath,
Let me die calmly; you may grant me this;—
I deny nothing,—defend nothing,—nothing
I ask of you, but silence for myself,
And sentence from the court!

Ben. This full admission
Spares us the harsh necessity of ordering
The torture to elicit the whole truth.

Doge. The torture! you have put me there already,
Daily since I was Doge; but if you will
Add the corporeal rack, you may: these limbs
Will yield with age to crushing iron; but
There's that within my heart shall strain your engines.

Enter an OFFICER.

Officer. Noble Venetians! Duchess Faliero
Requests admission to the Giunta's presence.

Ben. Say, conscript fathers,* shall she be admitted?

One of the Giunta. She may have revelations of importance
Unto the state, to justify compliance
With her request.

Ben. Is this the general will?

All. It is.

Doge. Oh, admirable laws of Venice!
Which would admit the wife, in the full hope
That she might testify against the husband.
What glory to the chaste Venetian dames!
But such blasphemers 'gainst all honor, as
Sit here, do well to act in their vocation.
Now, villain Steno! if this woman fail,

*The Venetian senate took the same title as the Roman of "Conscript Fathers."

I'll pardon thee thy lie, and thy escape,
And my own violent death, and thy vile life.

The DUCHESS *enters.*

Ben. Lady! this just tribunal has resolved,
Though the request be strange, to grant it, and
Whatever be its purport, to accord
A patient hearing with the due respect [tues;
Which fits your ancestry, your rank, and vir-
But you turn pale—ho! there, look to the lady;
Place a chair instantly.

Ang. A moment's faintness—
'Tis past; I pray you pardon me,—I sit not
In presence of my prince and of my husband,
While he is on his feet.

Ben. Your pleasure, lady?

Ang. Strange rumors, but most true, if all I hear
And see be sooth, have reach'd me, and I come
To know the worst, even at the worst; forgive
The abruptness of my entrance and my bear-
Is it——I cannot speak—I cannot shape [ing,
The question—but you answer it ere spoken,
With eyes averted, and with gloomy brows—
Oh God! this is the silence of the grave!

Ben. [*after a pause*]. Spare us, and spare thyself the repetition
Of our most awful, but inexorable
Duty to heaven and man!

Ang. Yet speak; I cannot—
I cannot—no—even now believe these things.
Is *he* condemned?

Ben. Alas!

Ang. And was he guilty?

Ben. Lady! the natural distraction of
Thy thoughts at such a moment makes the question
Merit forgiveness; else a doubt like this
Against a just and paramount tribunal [Doge,
Were deep offence. But question even the
And if he can deny the proofs, believe him
Guiltless as thy own bosom.

Ang. Is it so? [friend—
My lord—my sovereign—my poor father's
The mighty in the field, the sage in counsel,
Unsay the words of this man!—Thou art silent! [guilt,

Ben. He hath already owned to his own
Nor, as thou see'st, does he deny it now.

Ang. Ay, but he must not die! Spare his few years, [days!
Which grief and shame will soon cut down to
One day of baffled crime must not efface
Near sixteen lustres crowded with brave acts.

Ben. His doom must be fulfill'd without re-
Of time or penalty—'tis a decree. [mission

Ang. He hath been guilty, but there may be

Ben. Not in this case with justice. [mercy.

Ang. Alas! signor,
He who is only just is cruel: who [justly?
Upon the earth would live were all judged

Ben. His punishment is safety to the state.

Ang. He was a subject, and hath served the state: [state:
He was your general, and hath served the
He is your sovereign, and hath ruled the state.

One of the Council. He is a traitor, and betray'd the state. [no state

Ang. And, but for him, there now had been
To save or to destroy; and, you who sit [erer,
There to pronounce the death of your deliv-
Had now been groaning at a Moslem ear,
Or digging in the Hunnish mines in fetters!

One of the Council. No, lady, there are others who would die
Rather than breathe in slavery.

Ang. If there are so
Within *these* walls, *thou* art not of the number:
The truly brave are generous to the fallen:—
Is there no hope?

Ben. Lady, it cannot be.

Ang. [*turning to the Doge*]. Then die, Faliero! since it must be so;
But with the spirit of my father's friend.
Thou hast been guilty of a great offence,
Half cancell'd by the harshness of these men.
I would have sued to them,—have pray'd to them,— [bread,—
Have begg'd as famished mendicants for
Have wept as they will cry unto their God
For mercy, and be answer'd as they answer,—
Had it been fitting for thy name or mine,
And if the cruelty in their cold eyes [in,
Had not announced the heartless wrath with-
Then, as a prince, address thee to thy doom.

Doge. I have lived too long not to know how to die!
Thy suing to these men were but the bleating
Of the lamb to the butcher, or the cry
Of seamen to the surge: I would not take
A life eternal, granted at the hands
Of wretches, from whose monstrous villainies
I sought to free the groaning nations!

Michel Steno. Doge,
A word with thee and with this noble lady,
Whom I have grievously offended. Would
Sorrow, or shame, or penance on my part,
Could cancel the inexorable past!
But since that cannot be, as Christians let us
Say farewell, and in peace: with full contrition
I crave, not pardon, but compassion from you,
And give, however weak, my prayers for both.

Ang. Sage Benintendè, now chief judge of Venice,
I speak to thee in answer to yon signor.
Inform the ribald Steno, that his words
Ne'er weigh'd in mind with Loredano's daughter,
Further than to create a moment's pity
For such as he is: would that others had
Despised him as I pity! I prefer
My honor to a thousand lives, could such
Be multiplied in mine, but would not have
A single life of others lost for that
Which nothing human can impugn—the sense
Of virtue, looking not to what is called
A good name for reward, but to itself.
To me the scorner's words were as the wind
Unto the rock: but as there are—alas!
Spirits more sensitive, on which such things
Light as the whirlwind on the waters; souls

To whom dishonor's shadow is a substance
More terrible than death, here and hereafter;
Men whose vice is to start at vice's scoffing,
And who, though proof against all blandishments
Of pleasure, and all pangs of pain, are feeble
When the proud name on which they pinnacled [eagle
Their hopes are breathed on, jealous as the
Of her high aiery; let what we now
Behold, and feel, and suffer, be a lesson
To wretches how they tamper in their spleen
With beings of a higher order. Insects
Have made the lion mad ere now; a shaft
I' the heel o'erthrew the bravest of the brave;
A wife's dishonor was the bane of Troy;
A wife's dishonor unking'd Rome forever;
An injured husband brought the Gaul's to Clusium, [time;
And thence to Rome, which perish'd for a
An obscene gesture cost Caligula
His life, while earth yet bore his cruelties;
A virgin's wrong made Spain a Moorish province; [lines,
And Steno's lie, couch'd in two worthless
Hath decimated Venice, put in peril
A senate which hath stood eight hundred years, [head,
Discrown'd a prince, cut off his crownless
And forged new fetters for a groaning people!
Let the poor wretch, like to the courtesan
Who fired Persepolis, be proud of this,
If so it please him—'twere a pride fit for him!
But let him not insult the last hours of
Him, who, whate'er he now is, *was* a hero,
By the intrusion of his very prayers;
Nothing of good can come from such a source,
Nor would we aught with him, nor now, nor ever;
We leave him to himself, that lowest depth
Of human baseness. Pardon is for men,
And not for reptiles—we have none for Steno,
And no resentment: things like him must sting,
And higher beings suffer: 'tis the charter
Of life. The man who dies by the adder's fang
May have the crawler crush'd, but feels no anger; [worms
'Twas the worm's nature; and some men are
In soul, more than the living things of tombs.

Doge. [*to Ben.*]. Signor! complete that which you deem your duty.

Ben. Before we can proceed upon that duty,
We would request the princess to withdraw;
'Twill move her to much to be witness to it.

Ang. I know it will, and yet I must endure it.
For 'tis a part of mine—I will not quit,
Except by force, my husband's side.—Proceed!
Nay, fear not either shriek, or sigh, or tear;
Though my heart burst it shall be silent.—Speak!
I have that within which shall o'ermaster all.

Ben. Marino Faliero, Doge of Venice,
Count of Val di Marino, Senator,
And some time General of the Fleet and Army,
Noble Venetian, many times and oft
Intrusted by the state with high employments,
Even to the highest, listen to the sentence.
Convict by many witnesses and proofs,
And by thine own confession, of the guilt
Of treachery and treason, yet unheard of
Until this trial—the decree is death.
Thy goods are confiscate unto the state,
Thy name is razed from out her records, save
Upon a public day of thanksgiving
For this our most miraculous deliverance,
When thou art noted in our calendars [foes,
With earthquakes, pestilence, and foreign
And the great enemy of man, as subject
Of grateful masses for Heaven's grace in snatching
Our lives and country from thy wickedness.
The place wherein as Doge, thou shouldst be
With thy illustrious predecessors, is [painted,
To be left vacant, with a death-black veil
Flung over these dim words, engraved beneath—
"This place is of Marino Faliero,
Decapitated for his crimes."

Doge. "His crimes"—
But let it be so:—it will be in vain. [name
The veil which blackens o'er this blighted
And hides, or seems to hide, these lineaments,
Shall draw more gazers than the thousand portraits [pings—
Which glitter round it in their pictur'd trap-
Your delegated slaves—the people's tyrants!
"Decapitated for his crimes!"—*What* crimes?
Were it not better to record the facts,
So that the contemplator might approve,
Or at the least learn *whence* the crimes arose?
When the beholder knows a Doge conspired,
Let him be told the cause—it is your history.

Ben. Time must reply to that; our sons will judge [nounce.
Their fathers' judgments, which I now pro-
As Doge, clad in the ducal robes and cap.
Thou shalt be led hence to the Giant's Staircase,
Where thou and all our princes are invested;
And there, the ducal crown being first resumed
Upon the spot where it was first assumed,
Thy head shall be struck off; and Heaven have
Upon thy soul! [mercy

Doge. Is this the Giunta's sentence?

Ben. It is.

Doge. I can endure it.—And the time?

Ben. Must be immediate.—Make thy peace with God.
Within an hour thou must be in His presence.

Doge. I am already; and my blood will rise
To Heaven before the souls of those who shed
Are all my lands confiscated? [it.—

Ben. They are;
And goods, and jewels, and all kinds of treasure,
Except two thousand decats—these dispose of.

Doge. That's harsh.—I would have fain reserved the lands
Near to Treviso, which I hold by investment
From Laurence the Count bishop of Ceneda,
In fief perpetual to myself and heirs,

To portion them (leaving my city spoil,
My palace and my treasures, to your forfeit)
Between my consort and my kinsmen.
Ben. These
Lie under the state's ban; their chief, thy nephew,
In peril of his own life; but the council
Postpones his trial for the present. If
Thou will'st a state unto thy widow'd princess,
Fear not, for we will do her justice.
Ang. Signors,
I share not in your spoil! From henceforth, know
I am devoted unto God alone,
And take my refuge in the cloister.
Doge. Come!
The hour may be a hard one, but 'twill end.
Have I aught else to undergo save death?
Ben. You have nought to do, except confess and die.
The priest is robed, the scimitar is bare,
And both await without.—But above all,
Think not to speak unto the people; they
Are now by thousands swarming at the gates,
But these are closed: the Ten, the Avogadori,
The Giunta, and the chief men of the Forty,
Alone will be beholders of thy doom,
And they are ready to attend the Doge.
Doge. The Doge! [shalt die
Ben. Yes, Doge, thou hast lived and thou
A sovereign; till the moment which precedes
The separation of that head and trunk,
That ducal crown and head shall be united.
Thou hast forgot thy dignity in deigning
To plot with petty traitors; not so we,
Who in the very punishment acknowledge
The prince. Thy vile accomplices have died
The dog's death, and the wolf's; but thou shalt
As falls the lion by the hunters, girt [fall
By those who feel a proud compassion for
And mourn even the inevitable death [thee,
Provoked by thy wild wrath and regal fierce-
Now we remit thee to thy preparation: [ness.
Let it be brief, and we ourselves will be
Thy guides unto the place where first we were
United to thee as thy subjects, and
Thy senate; and must now be parted from thee
As such forever, on the self-same spot—
Guards! form the Doge's escort to his chamber. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—*The Doge's Apartment.*

The DOGE *as Prisoner, and the* DUCHESS *attending him.*

Doge. Now, that the priest is gone, 'twere useless all
To linger out the miserable minutes; [thee,
But one pang more, the pang of parting from
And I will leave the few last grains of sand,
Which yet remain of the accorded hour,
Still falling—I have done with Time.
Ang. Alas!
And I have been the cause, the unconscious cause: [union,
And for this funeral marriage, this black
Which thou, compliant with thy father's wish,
Didst promise at *his* death, thou hast seal'd thine own. [ever
Doge. Not so; there was that in my spirit
Which shaped out for itself some great reverse;
The marvel is, it came not until now—
And yet it was foretold me.
Ang. How foretold you?
Doge. Long years ago—so long, they are a doubt
In memory, and yet they live in annals:
When I was in my youth, and served the sen-
And signory as podesta and captain [ate
Of the town of Treviso, on a day
Of festival, the sluggish bishop who [anger,
Convey'd the Host aroused my rash young
By strange delay and arrogant reply [him,
To my reproof: I raised my hand and smote
Until he reel'd beneath his holy burthen;
And as he rose from earth again, he raised
His tremulous hands in pious wrath towards Heaven. [from him,
Thence pointing to the Host, which had fallen
He turn'd to me and said, "The hour will come [throw thee:
When He thou hast o'erthrown shall over-
The glory shall depart from out thy house,
The wisdom shall be shaken from thy soul,
And in thy best maturity of mind
A madness of the heart shall seize upon thee,
Passion shall tear thee when all passions cease
In other men, or mellow into virtues:
And majesty, which decks all other heads,
Shall crown to leave thee headless; honors shall
But prove to thee the heralds of destruction,
And hoary hairs of shame, and both of death,
But not such death as fits an aged man."
Thus saying, he pass'd on.—That hour is come. [not have striven
Ang. And with this warning couldst thou
To avert the fatal moment, and atone,
By penitence, for that which thou hadst done?
Doge. I own the words went to my heart, so much
That I remember'd them amid the maze
Of life, as if they form'd a spectral voice,
Which shook me in a supernatural dream;—
And I repented; but 'twas not for me
To pull in resolution: what must be [more,
I could not change, and would not fear. Nay,
Thou canst not have forgot what all remember,
That on my day of landing here as Doge,
On my return from Rome, a mist of such
Unwonted density went on before
The Bucentaur, like the columnar cloud
Which usher'd Israel out of Egypt, till
The pilot was misled, and disembark'd us
Between the pillars of St. Mark's, where 'tis
The custom of the state to put to death
The criminals, instead of touching at
The Riva della Paglia, as the wont is,—
So that all Venice shudder'd at the omen.
Ang. Ah! little boots it now to recollect
Such things.

Doge. And yet I find a comfort in
The thought that these things are the work of Fate.
For I would rather yield to gods than men,
Or cling to any creed of destiny,
Rather than deem these mortals, most of whom
I know to be as worthless as the dust,
And weak as worthless, more than instruments
Of an o'erruling power; they in themselves
Were all incapable—they could not be
Victors of him who oft had conquered for them.

Ang. Employ the minutes left in aspirations
Of a more healing nature, and in peace
Even with these wretches take thy flight to Heaven. [tainty

Doge. I *am* at peace: the peace of cer-
That a sure hour will come, when their sons' sons,
And this proud city, and these azure waters,
And all which makes them eminent and bright,
Shall be a desolation and a curse,
A hissing and a scoff unto the nations,
A Carthage, and a Tyre, an Ocean Babel!

Ang. Speak not thus now: the surge of passion still [ceive
Sweeps o'er thee to the last: thou dost de-
Thyself, and canst not injure them—be calmer.

Doge. I stand within eternity, and see
Into eternity, and I behold—
Ay, palpably as I see thy sweet face
For the last time—the days which I denounce
Unto all time against these wave-girt walls,
And they who are indwellers.

Guard [*coming forward*]. Doge of Venice,
The Ten are in attendance on your highness.

Doge. Then farewell, Angiolina!—one embrace—
Forgive the old man who hath been to thee
A fond but fatal husband—love my memory.
I would not ask so much for me still living,
But thou canst judge of me more kindly now,
Seeing my evil feelings are at rest.
Besides, of all the fruit of these long years,
Glory, and wealth, and power, and fame, and name,
Which generally leave some flowers to bloom
Even o'er the grave, I have nothing left, not
A little love, or friendship, or esteem, [even
No, not enough to extract an epitaph
From ostentatious kinsmen; in one hour
I have uprooted all my former life,
And outlived everything, except thy heart,
The pure, the good, the gentle, which will oft
With unimpair'd but not a clamorous grief,
Still keep—Thou turn'st so pale—Alas! she faints,
She has no breath, no pulse!—Guards! lend your aid—
I cannot leave her thus and yet 'tis better,
Since every lifeless moment spares a pang.
When she shades off this temporary death,
I shall be with the Eternal.—Call her women—
One look!—how cold her hand!—as cold as mine
Shall be ere she recovers.—Gently tend her,
And take my last thanks—I am ready now.

[*The Attendants of* Angiolina *enter, and surround their Mistress, who has fainted.—Exeunt the* Doge, *Guards, etc.*

Scene III.—*The Court of the Ducal Palace; the outer gates are shut against the people.—The* Doge *enters in his ducal robes, in procession with the Council of Ten and other Patricians, attended by the Guards, till they arrive at the top of the "Giants' Staircase" (where the Doges took the oaths); the Executioner is stationed there with his sword.—On arriving, a Chief of the Ten takes off the ducal cap from the* Doge's *head.*

Doge. So now the Doge is nothing, and at
I am again Marino Faliero: [last
'Tis well to be so, though but for a moment.
Here was I crown'd, and here, bear witness, Heaven!
With how much more contentment I resign
That shining mockery, the ducal bauble,
Than I received the fatal ornament.

One of the Ten. Thou tremblest, Faliero!

Doge. 'Tis with age, then.*

Ben. Faliero! hast thou aught further to commend,
Compatible with justice, to the senate?

Doge. I would commend my nephew to their mercy,
My consort to their justice; for methinks
My death, and such a death, might settle all
Between the state and me.

Ben. They shall be cared for;
Even notwithstanding thine unheard of crime.

Doge. Unheard of! ay, there's not a history
But shows a thousand crown'd conspirators
Against the people; but to set them free,
One sovereign only died, and one is dying.

Ben. And who were they who fell in such a cause? [of Venice—

Doge. The King of Sparta and the Doge Agis and Faliero.

Ben. Hast thou more
To utter or to do?

Doge. May I speak?

Ben. Thou may'st;
But recollect the people are without,
Beyond the compass of the human voice.

Doge. I speak to Time and to Eternity,
Of which I grow a portion, not to man.
Ye elements! in which to be resolved
I hasten, let my voice be as a spirit
Upon you! Ye blue waves! which bore my banner,

* This was the actual reply of Bailli, Maire of Paris, to a Frenchman who made him the same reproach on his way to execution, in the earliest part of their revolution. I find in reading over (since the completion of this tragedy), for the first time these six years, "Venice Preserved," a similar reply on a different occasion by Renault, and other coincidences arising from the subject. I need hardly remind the gentlest reader that such coincidences must be accidental from the very facility of their detection by reference to so popular a play on the stage, and in the closet, as Otway's chef-d'œuvre.

Ye winds! which flutter'd o'er as if you loved it, [wafted
And fill'd my swelling sails as they were
To many a triumph! Thou, my native earth,
Which I have bled for! and thou, foreign earth, [wound!
Which drank this willing blood from many a
Ye stones, in which my gore will not sink, but
Reek up to heaven! Ye skies, which will receive it! [Thou!
Thou sun! which shinest on these things, and
Who kindlest and who quenchest suns—Attest!
I am not innocent—but are these guiltless?
I perish, but not unavenged: far ages
Float up from the abyss of time to be, [doom
And show these eyes, before they close, the
Of this proud city, and I leave my curse
On her and hers forever!—Yes, the hours
Are silently engendering of the day,
When she, who built 'gainst Attila a bulwark,
Shall yield, and bloodlessly and basely yield,
Unto a bastard Attila, without
Shedding so much blood in her last defence,
As these old veins, oft drain'd in shielding her
Shall pour in sacrifice.—She shall be bought
And sold, and be an appanage to those
Who shall despise her!—She shall stoop to be
A province for an empire, petty town
In lieu of capital, with slaves for senators,
Beggars for nobles, panders for a people!*
Then when the Hebrew's in thy palaces,
The Hun in thy high places, and the Greek
Walks o'er the mart, and smiles on it for his!†
When thy patricians beg their bitter bread
In narrow streets, and in their shameful need
Make their nobility a plea for pity!
Then, when the few who still retain a wreck
Of their great fathers' heritage shall fawn
Round a barbarian Vice of Kings' Vice-gerent,
Even in the palace where they sway'd as sovereigns, [sovereign,
Even in the palace where they slew their
Proud of some name they have disgraced, or sprung
From an adultress boastful of her guilt
With some large gondolier or foreign soldier,
Shall bear about their bastardy in triumph
To the third spurious generation;—when
Thy sons are in the lowest scale of being,
Slaves turn'd o'er to the vanquish'd by the victors,
Despised by cowards for greater cowardice,
And scorn'd even by the vicious for such vices
As in the monstrous grasp of their conception
Defy all codes to image or to name them:
Then, when of Cyprus, now thy subject king-
All thine inheritance shall be her shame [dom,
Entail'd on thy less virtuous daughters, grown
A wider proverb for worse prostitution;—
When all the ills of conquer'd states shall cling thee,
Vice without splendor, sin without relief
Even from the gloss of love to smooth it o'er,
But in its stead, coarse lusts of habitude,*
Prurient yet passionless, cold studied lewdness,
Depraving nature's frailty to an art:—
When these and more are heavy on thee, when [pleasure,
Smiles without mirth, and pastimes without
Youth without honor, age without respect,
Meanness and weakness, and a sense of woe
'Gainst which thou wilt not strive, and dar'st not murmur,† [deserts,
Have made thee last and worst of peopled
Then in the last grasp of thine agony,
Amidst thy many murders, think of *mine!*

* Should the dramatic picture seem harsh, let the reader look to the historical of the period prophesied or rather of the few years preceding that period. Voltaire calculated their "nostre bene merite meretrici" at 12,000 of regulars, without including volunteers and local militia, on what authority I know not: but it is perhaps the only part of the population not decreased. Venice once contained 200,000 inhabitants: there are now about 90,000, and these! Few individuals can conceive, and none could describe, the actual state into which the more than infernal tyranny of Austria has plunged this unhappy city. From the present decay and degeneracy of Venice under the Barbarians, there are some honorable individual exceptions. There is Pasqualigo, the last, and alas! posthumous son of the marriage of the Doges with the Adriatic, who fought his frigate with far greater gallantry than any of his French condjutors in the memorable action off Lissa. I came home in the squadron with the prizes in 1811, and recollect to have heard Sir William Hoste, and the other officers engaged in that glorious conflict, speak in the highest terms of Pasqualigo's behavior. There is the Abbate Morelli. There is Alvise Querini, who, after a long and honorable diplomatic career, finds some consolation for the wrongs of his country, in the pursuits of literature with his nephew, Vittor Benzon, the son of the celebrated beauty, the heroine of "La Biondina in Gondoletta." There are the patrician poet Morosini, and the poet Lamberti, the author of the "Biondina," etc., and many other estimable productions; and, not least in an Englishman's estimation, Madame Michelli, the translator of Shakspeare. They are the young Dandolo and the improvisatore Carrer, and Giuseppe Albrizzi the accomplished son of an accomplished mother. There is Aglietti, and, were there nothing else there is the immortality of Canova. Cicognara, Mustoxithi, Bucati, etc., etc., I do not reckon, because the one is a Greek, and the others were born at least a hundred miles off, which, throughout Italy, constitutes, if not a foreigner, at least a stranger (forestiere).

† The chief palaces on the Brenta now belong to the Jews, who, in the earlier times of the Republic, were only allowed to inhabit Mestri, and not to enter the city of Venice. The whole commerce is in the hands of the Jews and Greeks, and the Huns form the garrison.

* See Appendix, Note C.

† If the Doge's prophecy seem remarkable, look to the following, made by Alantanni, two hundred and seventy years ago:—"There is one very singular prophecy concerning Venice: 'If thou dost not change,' it says to that proud republic, 'thy liberty, which is already on the wing, will not reckon a century more than the thousandth year.' If we carry back the epocha of Venetian freedom to the establishment of the government under which the republic flourished, we shall find that the date of the election of the first Doge is 697: and if we add one century to a thousand, that is, eleven hundred years, we shall find the sense of the prediction to be literally this: 'Thy liberty will not last till 1796.' Recollect that Venice ceased to be free in the year 1796, the fifth year of the French republic; and you will perceive that there never was prediction more pointed, or more exactly followed by the event. You will, therefore, note as very remarkable the three lines of Alamanni added to Venice; which, however, no one has pointed out:—

'Se non cangi pensier, un secol solo
Non contera sopra'l millesimo anno
Tua liberta, che va fuggendo a volo.'

Many prophecies have passed for such, and many men have been called prophets, for much less."—GINGUENE, "Hist. Lit. de l' Italie," t. ix. p. 144.

Thou den of drunkards with the blood of princes!*
Gehenna of the waters! thou sea Sodom!
Thus I devote thee to the eternal gods!
Thee and thy serpent seed!

Here the DOGE *turns and addresses the Executioner.*

Slave, do thine office!
Strike as I struck the foe! Strike as I would
Have struck those tyrants! Strike deep as my curse!
Strike—and but once!

[*The* DOGE *throws himself upon his knees, and as the Executioner raises his sword the scene closes.*

SCENE IV.—*The Piazza and Piazzetta of St. Mark's.—The people in crowds gathered round the grated gates of the Ducal Palace, which are shut.*

First Citizen. I have gain'd the gate, and can discern the Ten, [the Doge.
Robed in their gowns of state, ranged round
Second Cit. I cannot reach thee with mine utmost effort,
How is it? let us hear at least, since sight
Is thus prohibited unto the people,
Except the occupiers of those bars.
First Cit.—One has approached the Doge, and now they strip.
The Ducal bonnet from his head—and now
He raises his keen eyes to heaven; I see [—no,
Them glitter, and his lips move—Hush! hush
'Twas but a murmur—Curse upon the distance!
His words are inarticulate, but the voice
Swells up like mutter'd thunder; would we
But gather a sole sentence! [could
Second Cit. Hush! we perhaps may catch the sound
First Cit. 'Tis vain,
I cannot hear him.—How his hoary hair
Streams upon the wind like foam upon the wave! [circle
Now—now—he kneels—and now they form a
Round him, and all is hidden—but I see
The lifted sword in air—Ah! hark! it falls!

[*The people murmur.*

Third Cit. Then they have murder'd him who would have freed us.
Fourth Cit. He was a kind man to the commons ever. [portals barr'd.
Fifth Cit. Wisely they did to keep their
Would we had known the work they were preparing [brought
Ere we were summon'd here—we would have
Weapons and forced them!
Sixth Cit. Are you sure he's dead?
First Cit. I saw the sword fall—Lo! what have we here?

Enter on the Balcony of the Palace which fronts St. Mark's Place a CHIEF OF THE TEN,* *with a bloody sword. He waves it thrice before the people, and exclaims,*

"Justice hath dealt upon the mighty traitor!"

[*The gates are opened; the populace rush in towards the "Giants' Staircase," where the execution has taken place. The foremost of them exclaims to those behind,*

"The gory head rolls down the Giants' Steps!"

[*The curtain falls.*

* Of the first fifty Doges, five abdicated, five were banished with their eyes put out, five were massacred, and nine deposed; so that nineteen out of fifty lost the throne by violence, besides two who fell in battle—this occurred long previous to the reign of Marino Faliero. One of his more immediate predecessors, Andrea Dandolo, died of vexation; Marino Faliero himself perished as related. Amongst his successors, Foscari, after seeing his son repeatedly tortured and banished, was deposed, and died of breaking a blood-vessel, on hearing the bell of St. Mark's toll for the election of his successor. Morosini was impeached for the loss of Candia; but this was previous to his dukedom, during which he conquered the Morea, and was styled the Peloponnesian. Faliero might truly say,—

"Thou den of drunkards with the blood of Princes!"

* Un Capo de' dieci are the words of Sanuto's Chronicle.

SARDANAPALUS.

A TRAGEDY.

1821.

TO

THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOETHE

A STRANGER PRESUMES TO OFFER THE HOMAGE OF A
LITERARY VASSAL TO HIS LIEGE LORD, THE FIRST OF EXISTING WRITERS,
WHO HAS CREATED THE LITERATURE OF HIS OWN COUNTRY,
AND ILLUSTRATED THAT OF EUROPE.
THE UNWORTHY PRODUCTION
WHICH THE AUTHOR VENTURES TO INSCRIBE TO HIM IS ENTITLED,
SARDANAPALUS.

PREFACE.

In publishing the following Tragedies* I have only to repeat, that they were not composed with the most remote view to the stage. On the attempt made by the managers in a former instance, the public opinion has been already expressed. With regard to my own private feelings, as it seems that they are to stand for nothing, I shall say nothing.

For the historical foundation of the following compositions the reader is referred to the Notes.

The Author has in one instance attempted to preserve, and in the other to approach, the "unities"; conceiving that with any very distant departure from them, there may be poetry, but can be no drama. He is aware of the unpopularity of this notion in present English literature; but it is not a system of his own, being merely an opinion, which, not very long ago, was the law of literature throughout the world, and is still so in the more civilized parts of it. But "nous avons change tout cela," and are reaping the advantages of the change. The writer is far from conceiving that anything he can adduce by personal precept or example can at all approach his regular, or even irregular, predecessors; he is merely giving a reason why he preferred the more regular formation of a structure, however feeble, to an entire abandonment of all rules whatsoever. Where he has failed, the failure is in the architect,—and not in the art.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MEN.

SARDANAPALUS, *King of Nineveh and Assyria, etc.*
ARBACES, *the Mede who aspired to the throne.*
BELESES, *a Chaldean and Soothsayer.*
SALEMENES, *the King's Brother-in-Law.*
ALTADA, *an Assyrian Officer of the Palace.*
PANIA. ZAMES. SFERO. BALEA.

WOMEN.

ZARINA, *the Queen.*
MYRRHA, *an Ionian female Slave, and the Favorite of* SARDANAPALUS.
Women composing the Harem of SARDANAPALUS, *Guards, Attendants, Chaldean Priests, Medes, etc., etc.*

SCENE.—*A Hall in the Royal Palace of Nineveh.*

In this tragedy it has been my intention to follow the account of Diodorus Siculus; reducing it, however, to such dramatic regularity as I best could, and trying to approach the unities. I therefore suppose the rebellion to explode and succeed in one day by a sudden conspiracy, instead of the long war of the history.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—*A Hall in the Palace.*

Salemenes [*solus*]. He hath wrong'd his queen, but still he is her lord;
He hath wrong'd my sister, still he is my brother: [sovereign,
He hath wrong'd his people, still he is their
And I must be his friend as well as subject:
He must not perish thus. I will not see
The blood of Nimrod and Semiramis
Sink in the earth, and thirteen hundred years
Of empire ending like a shepherd's tale;
He must be roused. In his effeminate heart
There is a careless courage which corruption
Has not all quench'd, and latent energies,
Repress'd by circumstance, but not destroy'd—
Steep'd, but not drown'd, in deep voluptuous- [ness,
If born a peasant, he had been a man
To have reach'd an empire: to an empire born,
He will bequeath none; nothing but a name,
Which his sons will not prize in heritage!—
Yet, not all lost, even yet he may redeem
His sloth and shame, by only being that
Which he should be, as easily as the thing
He should not be and is. Were it less toil
To sway his nations than consume his life?
To head an army than to rule a harem?
He sweats in palling pleasures, dulls his soul,
And saps his goodly strength in toils which yield not
Health like the chase, nor glory like the war—
He must be roused. Alas! there is no sound
[*Sound of soft music heard from within.*
To rouse him short of thunder. Hark! the lute,
The lyre, the timbrel; the lascivious tinklings

* "Sardanapalus" and "The Two Foscari."

Of lulling instruments, the softening voices
Of women, and of beings less than women,
Must chime in to the echo of his revel,
While the great king of all we know of earth,
Lolls crown'd with roses, and his diadem
Lies negligently by, to be caught up [it.
By the first manly hand that dares to snatch
Lo, where they come! already I perceive
The reeking odors of the perfumed trains,
And see the bright gems of the glittering girls,
At once his chorus and his council, flash
Along the gallery and amidst the damsels,
As femininely garb'd, and scarce less female,
The grandson of Semiramis, the man-queen—
He comes! Shall I await him? yes, and front him, [other,
And tell him what all good men tell each
Speaking of him and his. They come, the slaves
Led by the monarch subject to his slaves.

SCENE II.

Enter SARDANAPALUS, *effeminately dressed, his Head crowned with Flowers, and his Robe negligently flowing, attended by a Train of Women and young Slaves.*

Sar. Let the pavillion over the Euphrates [*Speaking to some of his attendants.*
Be garlanded, and lit, and furnish'd forth
For an especial banquet; at the hour
Of midnight we will sup there: see nought wanting,
And bid the galley be prepared. There is
A cooling breeze which crisps the broad clear river; [deign
We will embark anon. Fair nymphs, who
To share the soft hours of Sardanapalus,
We'll meet again in that the sweetest hour,
When we shall gather like the stars above us,
And you will form a heaven as bright as theirs;
Till then let each be mistress of her time,
And thou, my own Ionian* Myrrha, choose
Wilt thou along with them or me?

Myr. My lord—

Sar. My lord, my life! why answerest thou so coldly?
It is the curse of kings to be so answer'd.
Rule thy own hours, thou rulest mine—say wouldst thou
Accompany our guests, or charm away
The moments from me?

Myr. The king's choice is mine.

Sar. I pray thee say not so; my chiefest joy
Is to contribute to thine every wish.
I do not dare to breathe my own desire, [still
Lest it should clash with thine; for thou art
Too prompt to sacrifice thy thoughts for others. [ness

Myr. I would remain; I have no happi-
Save in beholding thine; yet—

Sar. Yet! what YET
Thy own sweet will shall be the only barrier
Which ever rises betwixt thee and me.

Myr. I think the present is the wonted hour
Of council; it were better I retire.

Sal. [*comes forward and says.*] The Ionian slave says well: let her retire.

Sar. Who answers? How now, brother?

Sal. The *queen's* brother,
And your most faithful vassal, royal lord.

Sar. [*addressing his train.*] As I have said let all dispose their hours [ence.
Till midnight, when again we pray your pres-
[*The court retiring.*

[*To* MYRRHA, *who is going.*] Myrrha! I thought *thou* wouldst remain.

Myr. Great king,
Thou didst not say so.

Sar. But *thou* lookedst it:
I know each glance of those Ionic eyes,
Which said thou wouldst not leave me.

Myr. Sire! your brother—

Sal. His *consort's* brother, minion of Ionia!
How darest *thou* name *me* and not blush?

Sar. Not blush?
Thou hast no more eyes than heart to make her crimson
Like to the dying day on Caucasus, [ows
Where sunset tints the snow with rosy shad-
And then reproach her with thine own cold blindness, [Myrrha?
Which will not see it. What! in tears, my

Sal. Let them flow on; she weeps for more than one,
And is herself the cause of bitterer tears.

Sar. Cursed be he who caused those tears to flow! [already.

Sal. Curse not thyself—millions do that

Sar. Thou dost forget thee: make me not I am a monarch. [remember

Sal. Would thou couldst!

Myr. My sovereign,
I pray, and thou, too, prince, permit my absence. [check'd

Sar. Since it must be so, and this churl has
Thy gentle spirit, go; but recollect [lose
That we must forthwith meet; I had rather
An empire than thy presence. [*Exit* MYRRHA.

Sal. It may be
Thou wilt lose both, and both forever!

Sar. Brother,
I can at least command myself, who listen
To language such as this: yet urge me not
Beyond my easy nature.

Sal. 'Tis beyond
That easy, far too easy, idle nature,
Which I would urge thee. O that I could
Though 'twere against myself. [rouse thee!

Sar. By the god Baal!
The man would make me tyrant.

Sal. So thou art.
Think'st thou there is no tyranny but that
Of blood and chains? The despotism of vice—
The weakness and the wickedness of luxury,—
The negligence—the apathy—the evils

* "The Ionian name had been still more comprehensive, having included the Achaians and the Bœotians, who, together with those to whom it was afterwards confined, would make nearly the whole of the Greek nation: and among the Orientals it was always the general name for the Greeks." MITFORD'S "Greece," vol. i. p. 199.

Of sensual sloth—produce ten thousand tyrants,
Whose delegated cruelty surpasses
The worse acts of one energetic master,
However harsh and hard in his own bearing.
The false and fond examples of thy lusts
Corrupt no less than they oppress, and sap
In the same moment all thy pageant power
And those who should sustain it: so that whether
A foreign foe invade, or civil broil
Distract within, both will alike prove fatal:
The first thy subjects have no heart to conquer;
The last they rather would assist than vanquish.
Sar. Why, what makes thee the mouth-piece of the people?
Sal. Forgiveness of the queen's, my sister's wrongs;
A natural love unto my infant nephews;
Faith to the king, a faith he may need shortly,
In more than words; respect for Nimrod's line;
Also, another thing thou knowest not.
Sar. What's that?
Sal. To thee an unknown word.
Sar. Yet speak it;
I love to learn.
Sal. Virtue.
Sar. Not know the word!
Never was word yet rung so in my ears—
Worse than the rabble's shout, or splitting trumpet;
I've heard thy sister talk of nothing else.
Sal. To change the irksome theme, then hear of vice.
Sar. From whom?
Sal. Even from the winds, if thou couldst
Unto the echoes of the nation's voice. [listen
Sar. Come, I'm indulgent, as thou knowest, patient,
As thou hast often proved—speak out, what moves thee?
Sal. Thy peril.
Sar. Say on.
Sal. Thus, then: all the nations,
For they are many, whom thy father left
In heritage are loud in wrath against thee.
Sar. 'Gainst *me?* What would the slaves?
Sal. A king.
Sar. And what
Am I then?
Sal. In their eyes a nothing; but
In mine a man who might be something still.
Sar. The railing drunkards! why, what would they have?
Have they not peace and plenty?
Sal. Of the first
More than is glorious; of the last, far less
Than the king recks on.
Sar. Whose then is the crime,
But the false satraps', who provide no better?
Sal. And somewhat in the monarch who ne'er looks
Beyonds his palace walls, or if he stirs
Beyond them, 'tis but to some mountain palace,
Till summer heats wear down. O glorious Baal!
Who built up this vast empire, and wert made
A god, or at the least shinest like a god
Through the long centuries of thy renown,
This, thy presumed descendant, ne'er beheld
As king the kingdoms thou didst leave as hero
Won with thy blood, and toil, and time, and peril!
For what? to furnish imposts for a revel,
Or multiplied extortions for a minion.
Sar. I understand thee—thou wouldst have me go
Forth as a conqueror. By all the stars
Which the Chaldeans read—the restless slaves
Deserve that I should curse them with their wishes,
And lead them forth to glory.
Sal. Wherefore not?
Semiramis—a woman only—led
These our Assyrians to the solar shores
Of Ganges.
Sar. 'Tis most true. And *how* return'd?
Sal. Why, like a *man*—a hero; baffled, but
Not vanquish'd. With but twenty guards,
Good her retreat to Bactria.
Sar. And how many she made
Left she behind in India to the vultures?
Sal. Our annals say not.
Sar. Then I will say for them—
That she had better woven within her palace
Some twenty garments, than with twenty guards
Have fled to Bactria, leaving to the ravens,
And wolves and men—the fiercer of the three,
Her myriads of fond subjects. Is *this* glory?
Then let me live in ignominy ever.
Sal. All warlike spirits have not the same fate.
Semiramis, the glorious parent of
A hundred kings, although she fail'd in India,
Brought Persia, Media, Bactria, to the realm
Which she once sway'd—and thou *might'st* sway.
Sar. I *sway* them—
She but subdued them.
Sal. It may be ere long
That they will need her sword more than your sceptre.
Sar. There was a certain Bacchus, was there not?
I've heard my Greek girls speak of such—they say
He was a god, that is, a Grecian god,
An idol foreign to Assyria's worship,
Who conquer'd the same golden realm of Ind
Thou prat'st of, where Semiramis was vanquish'd.
Sal. I have heard of such a man: and thou perceiv'st
That he is deem'd a god for what he did.
Sar. And in his godship I will honor him—
Not much as man. What, ho! my cupbearer?
Sal. What means the king?
Sar. To worship your new god
And ancient conqueror. Some wine, I say.

Enter CUPBEARER.

Sar. [*addressing the* CUPBEARER.] Bring me the golden goblet thick with gems,
Which bears the name of Nimrod's chalice. Hence,
Fill full, and bear it quickly.
[*Exit* CUPBEARER.
Sal. Is this moment
A fitting one for the resumption of

Thy yet unslept-off revels?

Re-enter CUPBEARER *with wine.*

Sar. [*Taking the cup from him.*] Noble kinsman,
If these barbarian Greeks of the far shores
And skirts of these our realms lie not, this Bacchus
Conquer'd the whole of India, did he not?

Sal. He did, and thence was deem'd a deity.

Sar. Not so:—of all his conquests a few columns
Which may be his and might be mine, if I
Thought them worth purchase and conveyance, are
The landmarks of the seas of gore he shed,
The realms he wasted, and the hearts he broke.
But here, here in this goblet is his title
To immortality—the immortal grape [gave
From which he first express'd the soul, and
To gladden that of man, as some atonement
For the victorious mischiefs he had done.
Had it not been for this, he would have been
A mortal still in name as in his grave;
And, like my ancestor Semiramis,
A sort of semi-glorious human monster.
Here's that which deified him—let it now
Humanize thee; my surly, chiding brother,
Pledge me to the Greek god!

Sal. For all thy realms
I would not so blaspheme our country's creed.

Sar. That is to say, thou thinkest him a hero,
That he shed blood by oceans; and no god,
Because he turned a fruit to an enchantment,
Which cheers the sad, revives the old, inspires
The young, makes weariness forget his toil,
And fear her danger; opens a new world
When this, the present, palls. Well, then I pledge thee
And *him* as a true man, who did his utmost
In good or evil to surprise mankind. [*Drinks.*

Sal. Wilt thou resume a revel at this hour?

Sar. And if I did, 'twere better than a trophy
Being bought without a tear. But that is not
My present purpose; since thou wilt not pledge
Continue what thou pleasest. [me
[*To the* CUPBEARER.] Boy, retire.
[*Exit* CUPBEARER.

Sal. I would but have recall'd thee from thy dream;
Better by me awaken'd than rebellion.

Sar. Who should rebel? or why? what cause? pretext?
I am the lawful king, descended from
A race of kings who knew no predecessors.
What have I done to thee, or to the people,
That thou shouldst rail, or they rise up against me? [not.

Sal. Of what thou hast done to me, I speak

Sar. But
Thou think'st that I have wrong'd the queen, is't not so?

Sal. Think! Thou hast wrong'd her!

Sar. Patience, prince, and hear me.
She has all power and splendor of her station,
Respect, the tutelage of Assyria's heirs,
The homage and the appanage of sovereignty.
I married her as monarchs wed—for state,
And loved her as most husbands love their wives.
If she or thou supposedst I could link me
Like a Chaldean peasant to his mate,
Ye knew not me, nor monarchs, nor mankind.

Sal. I pray thee change the theme; my blood disdains
Complaint, and Salamenes' sister seeks not
Reluctant love, even from Assyria's lord!
Nor would she deign to accept divided passion
With foreign strumpets and Ionian slaves.
The queen is silent.

Sar. And why not her brother?

Sal. I only echo thee the voice of empires,
Which he who long neglects not long will govern.

Sar. The ungrateful and ungracious slaves! they murmur [them
Because I had not shed their blood, nor led
To dry into the desert's dust by myriads,
Or whiten with their bones the banks of Gan- [ges;
Nor decimated them with savage laws,
Nor sweated them to build up pyramids,
Or Babylonian walls.

Sal. Yet these are trophies
More worthy of a people and their prince
Than songs, and lutes, and feasts, and concubines, [tues.
And lavished treasures, and contemned vir-

Sar. Or for my trophies I have founded cities;
There's Tarsus and Anchialus, both built
In one day—what could that blood-loving beldame,
My martial grandam, chaste Semiramis,
Do more, except destroy them?

Sal. 'Tis most true;
I own thy merit in these founded cities,
Built for a whim, recorded with a verse, [ages.
Which shames both them and thee to coming

Sar. Shame me! By Baal, the cities, though well built, [what
Are not more goodly than the verse! Say
Thou wilt 'gainst me, my mode of life or rule,
But nothing 'gainst the truth of that brief record.
Why, these few lines contain the history
Of all things human: hear—"Sardanapalus,
The king, and son of Anacyndaraxes,
In one day built Anchialus and Tarsus.
Eat, drink, and love; the rest's not worth a fillip."*

* "For this expedition he took only a small chosen body of the phalanx, but all his light troops. In the first day's march he reached Anchialus, a town said to have been founded by the king of Assyria, Sardanapalus. The fortifications, in their magnitude and extent, still in Arrian's time bore the character of greatness, which the Assyrians appear singularly to have affected in works of the kind. A monument representing Sardanapalus was found there, warranted by an inscription in Assyrian characters, of course in the old Assyrian language, which the Greeks, whether well or ill, interpreted thus: 'Sardanapalus, son of Anacyndaraxes, in one day founded Anchialus and Tarsus. Eat, drink

Sal. A worthy moral, and a wise inscription,
For a king to put up before his subjects!
Sar. Oh, thou wouldst have me doubtless set up edicts—
"Obey the king—contribute to his treasure—
Recruit his phalanx—spill your blood at bidding—
Fall down and worship, or get up and toil."
Or thus—"Sardanapalus on this spot
Slew fifty thousand of his enemies. [trophy."
These are their sepulchres, and this his
I leave such things to conquerors; enough
For me, if I can make my subjects feel
The weight of human misery less, and glide
Ungroaning to the tomb: I take no license
Which I deny to them. We are all men.
Sal. Thy sires have been revered as gods—
Sar. In dust
And death, where they are neither gods nor men.
Talk not of such to me! the worms are gods;
At least they banqueted upon your gods,
And died for lack of further nutriment.
These gods were merely men—look to their issue—
I feel a thousand mortal things about me,
But nothing godlike,—unless it may be
The thing which you condemn, a disposition
To love and be merciful, to pardon
The follies of my species, and (that's human)
To be indulgent to my own.
Sal. Alas;
The doom of Nineveh is seal'd.—Woe—woe
To the unrivall'd city!
Sar. What dost dread?
Sal. Thou art guarded by thy foes; in a few hours [thee,
The tempest may break out which overwhelms
And thine and mine; and in another day
What *is* shall be the past of Belus' race.
Sar. What must we dread?
Sal. Ambitious treachery,
Which has environ'd thee with snares; but yet
There is resource: empower me with thy signet
To quell the machinations, and I lay
The heads of thy chief foes before thy feet.
Sar. The heads—how many?
Sal. Must I stay to number
When even thine own's in peril? Let me go,
Give me thy signet—trust me with the rest.
Sar. I will trust no man with unlimited lives
When we take those from others, we nor know
What we have taken, nor the thing we give.
Sal. Wouldst thou not take their lives who seek for thine? [Yes.
Sar. That's a hard question—but I answer,
Cannot the thing be done without? Who are they [rested.
Whom thou suspectest?—Let them be ar-
Sal. I would thou wouldst not ask me; the next moment [troop
Will send my answer through the babbling
Of paramours, and thence fly o'er the palace,
Even to the city, and so baffle all.—
Trust me.
Sar. Thou knowest I have done so ever;
Take thou the signet. [*Gives the signet.*
Sal. I have one more request.
Sar. Name it.
Sal. That thou this night forbear the banquet
In the pavilion over the Euphrates.
Sar. Forbear the banquet! Not for all the plotters
That ever shook a kingdom! Let them come,
And do their worst: I shall not blench for them
Nor rise the sooner; nor forbear the goblet;
Nor crown me with a single rose the less;
Nor lose one joyous hour.—I fear them not.
Sal. But thou wouldst arm thee, wouldst thou not, if needful?
Sar. Perhaps. I have the goodliest armor,
A sword of such a temper; and a bow [and
And javelin, which might furnish Nimrod forth
A little heavy, but yet not unwieldy.
And now I think on't, 'tis long since I've used them, [brother?
Even in the chase. Hast ever seen them,
Sal. Is this a time for such fantastic trifling?
If need be, wilt thou wear them?
Sar. Will I not?
Oh! if it must be so, and these rash slaves
Will not be ruled with less, I'll use the sword
Till they shall wish it turned into a distaff.
Sal. They say thy sceptre's turn'd to that already. [old Greeks,
Sar. That's false! but let them say so: the
Of whom our captives often sing, related
The same of their chief hero, Hercules,
Because he loved a Lydian queen: thou secst
The populace of all the nations seize [eigns.
Each calumny they can to sink their sover-
Sal. They did not speak thus of thy fathers,
Sar. No;
They dared not. They were kept to toil and combat;
And never changed their chains but for their armor;

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play; all other human joys are not worth a fillip.' Supposing this version nearly exact (for Arrian says it was not quite so), whether the purpose has not been to invite to civil order a people disposed to turbulence, rather than to recommend immoderate luxury, may perhaps reasonably be questioned. What, indeed, could be the object of a king of Assyria in founding such towns in a country so distant from his capital, and so divided from it by an immense extent of sandy deserts and lofty mountains, and, still more, how the inhabitants could be at once in circumstances to abandon themselves to the intemperate joys which their prince has been supposed to have recommended, is not obvious; but it may deserve observation that, in that line of coast, the southern of Lesser Asia, ruins of cities, evidently of an age after Alexander, yet barely named in history, at this day astonish the adventurous traveller by their magnificence and elegance. Amid the desolation which, under a singularly barbarian government, has for so many centuries been daily spreading in the finest countries of the globe, whether more from soil and climate, or from opportunities for commerce, extraordinary means must have been found for communities to flourish there; whence it may seem that the measures of Sardanapalus were directed by juster views than have been commonly ascribed to him; but that monarch having been the last of a dynasty ended by a revolution, obloquy on his memory would follow of course from the policy of his successors and their partisans. The inconsistency of traditions concerning Sardanapalus is striking in Diodorus's account of him." MITFORD'S "Greece," vol. ix. p. 311, 312, 313.

Now they have peace and pastime, and the
To revel and to rail; it irks me not. [license
I would not give the smile of one fair girl
For all the popular breath that e'er divided
A name from nothing. What are the rank tongues
Of this vile herd, grown insolent with feeling,
That I should prize their noisy praise, or
Their noisome clamor? [dread
Sal. You have said they are men,
As such their hearts are something.
Sar. So my dogs' are;
And better, as more faithful:—but, proceed;
Thou hast my signet:—since they are tumultuous,
Let them be temper'd, yet not roughly, till
Necessity enforce it. I hate all pain,
Given or received; we have enough within us,
The meanest vassal as the loftiest monarch,
Not to add to each other s natural burthen
Of mortal misery, but rather lessen,
By mild reciprocal alleviation,
The fatal penalties imposed on life:
But this they know not, or they will not know,
I have, by Baal! done all I could to soothe them:
I made no wars, I added no new imposts,
I interfered not with their civic lives, [them,
I let them pass their days as best might suit
Passing my own as suited me.
Sal. Thou stopp'st
Short of the duties of a king; and therefore
They say thou art unfit to be a monarch.
Sar. They lie—Unhappily, I am unfit
To be aught save a monarch; else for me
The meanest Mede might be the king instead.
Sal. There is one Mede, at least, who seeks to be so. [thou desirest
Sar. What mean'st thou? 'tis thy secret;
Few questions, and I'm not of curious nature.
Take the fit steps; and since necessity
Requires, I sanction and support thee. Ne'er
Was man who more desired to rule in peace
The peaceful only, if they rouse me, better
They had conjured up stern Nimrod from his ashes,
"The mighty hunter." I will turn these realms
To one wide desert chase of brutes, who *were*,
But *would* no more, by their own choice, be human. [*which*
What they have found me, they belie; *that*
They yet may find me—shall defy their wish
To speak it worse: yet let them thank themselves.
Sal. Then thou at last canst feel?
Sar. Feel! who feels not
Ingratitude?
Sal. I will not pause to answer
With words, but deeds. Keep thou awake that energy [thee,
Which sleeps at times, but is not dead within
And thou may'st yet be glorious in thy reign,
As powerful in thy realm. Farewell!
[*Exit* SALEMENES.
Sar. [*solus*]. Farewell.
He's gone; and on his finger bears my signet,
Which is to him a sceptre. He is stern
As I am heedless! and the slaves deserve
To feel a master. What may be the danger,
I know not:—he hath found it, let him quell
Must I consume my life—this little life— [it.
In guarding against all may make it less?
It is not worth so much! It were to die
Before my hour, to live in dread of death,
Tracing revolt; suspecting all about me,
Because they are near; and all who are remote,
Because they are far. But if it should be so—
If they should sweep me off from earth and empire,
Why, what is earth or empire of the earth?
I have loved, and lived, and multiplied my
To die is no less natural than those [image
Acts of this clay! 'Tis true I have not shed
Blood as I might have done, in oceans, till
My name became the synonyme of death—
A terror and a trophy. But for this
I feel no penitence; my life is love:
If I must shed blood, it shall be by force.
Till now, no drop from an Assyrian vein
Hath flowed for me, nor hath the smallest coin
Of Nineveh's vast treasures e'er been lavish'd
On objects which could cost her sons a tear:
If then they hate me, 'tis because I hate not:
If they rebel, 'tis because I oppress not.
Oh, men! ye must be ruled with scythes, not sceptres, [reap
And mow'd down like the grass, else all we
Is rank abundance, and a rotten harvest
Of discontents infecting the fair soil,
Making a desert of fertility,—
I'll think no more.—Within there, ho!

Enter an ATTENDANT.

Sar. Slave, tell
The Ionian Myrrha we would crave her presence.
Attend. King, she is here. [ence.

MYRRHA *enters.*

Sar. [*apart to* ATTENDANT.] Away!
[*Addressing* MYRRHA.] Beautiful being!
Thou dost almost anticipate my heart; [me
It throbb'd for thee, and here thou comest: let
Deem that some unknown influence, some sweet oracle
Communicates between us, though unseen,
In absence, and attracts us to each other.
Myr. There doth.
Sar. I know there doth, but not its name;
What is it?
Myr. In my native land a God,
And in my heart a feeling like a God's,
Exalted; yet I own 'tis only mortal;
For what I feel is humble, and yet happy—
That is, it would be happy; but—
[MYRRHA *pauses.*
Sar. There comes
Forever something between us and what
We deem our happiness; let me remove
The barrier which that hesitating accent
Proclaims to thine and mine is seal'd.
Myr. My lord!—

Sar. My lord—my king—sire—sovereign: thus it is—
Forever thus, address'd with awe. I ne'er
Can see a smile, unless in some broad ban-
Intoxicating glare, when the buffoons [quet's
Have gorged themselves up to equality,
Or I have quaff'd me down to their abasement.
Myrrha, I can hear all these things, these names, [prized them;
Lord—king—sire—monarch—nay, time was I
That is, I suffer'd them—from slaves and nobles;
But when they falter from the lips I love,
The lips which have been press'd to mine, a chill [hood
Comes o'er my heart, a cold sense of the false-
Of this my station, which represses feeling
In those for whom I have felt most, and makes
Wish that I could lay down the dull tiara, [me
And share a cottage on the Caucasus
With thee, and wear no crowns but those of
Myr. Would that we could! [flowers.
Sar. And dost *thou* feel this?—Why?
Myr. Then thou wouldst know what thou canst never know.
Sar. And that is—
Myr. The true value of a heart;
At least, a woman's.
Sar. I have proved a thousand—
A thousand and a thousand.
Myr. Hearts?
Sar. I think so.
Myr. Not one! the time may come thou may'st.
Sar. It will.
Hear, Myrrha; Salemenes has declared—
Or why or how he hath divined it, Belus,
Who founded our great realm, knows more than I,
But Salemenes hath declared my throne
In peril.
Myr. He did well.
Sar. And say'st *thou* so?
Thou whom he spurn'd so harshly; and now dared
Drive from our presence with his savage jeers,
And made thee weep and blush?
Myr. I should do both
More frequently, and he did well to call me
Back to my duty. But thou speak'st of peril—
Peril to thee—
Sar. Ay, from dark plots and snares—
From Medes—and discontented troops and nations,
I know not what—a labyrinth of things—
A maze of mutter'd threats and mysteries;
Thou know'st the man—it is his usual custom.
But he is honest. Come, we'll think no more
But of the midnight festival. [on't—
Myr. 'Tis time
To think of aught save festivals.—Thou hast
Spurn'd his sage cautions? [not
Sar. What?—and dost thou fear?
Myr. Fear!—I'm a Greek, and how should I fear death? [freedom?
A slave, and wherefore should I dread my
Sar. Then wherefore dost thou turn so pale?
Myr. I love.
Sar. And do not I! I love thee far—far more
Than either the brief life or the wide realm
Which, it may be, are menaced;—yet I blench not. [nor me;
Myr. That means thou lovest nor thyself
For he who loves another loves himself,
Even for that other's sake. This is too rash:
Kingdoms and lives are not to be so lost.
Sar. Lost!—why, who is the aspiring chief
Assume to win them? [who dared
Myr. Who is he should dread
To try so much? When he who is their ruler
Forgets himself, will they remember him?
Sar. Myrrha!
Myr. Frown not upon me; you have smiled
Too often on me not to make those frowns
Bitterer to bear than any punishment [ject!
Which they may augur.—King, I am your sub-
Master, I am your slave! Man, I have loved you!— [ness,
Loved you, I know not by what fatal weak-
Although a Greek, and born a foe to monarchs—
A slave, and hating fetters—an Ionian,
And therefore, when I love a stranger, more
Degraded by that passion than by chains!
Still I have loved you. If that love were strong
Enough to overcome all former nature,
Shall I not claim the privilege to save you?
Sar. Save me, my beauty! Thou art very fair,
And what I seek of thee is love—not safety.
Myr. And without love, where dwells secur-
Sar. I speak of woman's love. [ity?
Myr. The very first
Of human life must spring from woman's breast, [her lips,
Your first small words are taught you from
Your first tears quench'd by her, and your last sighs
Too often breathed out in a woman's hearing,
When men have shrunk from the ignoble care
Of watching the last hour of him who led them. [music;
Sar. My eloquent Ionian! thou speak'st
The very chorus of the tragic song [time
I have heard thee talk of as the favorite pas-
Of thy far father-land. Nay, weep not—calm thee. [speak
Myr. I weep not.—But I pray thee, do not
About my fathers or their land.
Sar. Yet oft
Thou speakest of them.
Myr. True—true; constant thought
Will overflow in words unconsciously; [me.
But when another speaks of Greece, it wounds
Sar. Well then, how wouldst thou save me, as thou saidst? [not
Myr. By teaching thee to save thyself, and
Thyself alone, but these vast realms, from all
The rage of the worst war—the war of brethren. [riors;
Sar. Why, child, I loathe all war and war-

I live in peace and pleasure; what can man
Do more!
Myr. Alas! my lord, with common men
There needs too oft the show of war to keep
The substance of sweet peace, and, for a king,
'Tis sometimes better to be fear'd than loved.
Sar. And I have never sought but for the last.
Myr. And now art neither.
Sar. Dost *thou* say so, Myrrha?
Myr. I speak of civic popular love, *self*-love,
Which means that men are kept in awe and think so
law
Yet not oppress'd—at least they must not
Or if they think so, deem it necessary,
To ward off worse: oppression, their own revel,
passions.
A king of feasts, and flowers, and wine, and
And love, and mirth, was never king of glory.
Sar. Glory! what's that?
Myr. Ask of the gods thy fathers.
Sar. They cannot answer: when the priests
speak of them,
'Tis for some small addition to the temple.
Myr. Look to the annals of thine empire's
founders. cannot.
Sar. They are so blotted o'er with blood, I
But what wouldst have? the empire *has been*
founded.
I cannot go on multiplying empires.
Myr. Preserve thine own.
Sar. At least, I will enjoy it.
Come, Myrrha, let us go on to the Euphrates;
The hour invites, the galley is prepared,
And the pavilion, deck'd for our return,
In fit adornment for the evening banquet,
Shall blaze with beauty and with light, until
It seems unto the stars which are above us
Itself an opposite star; and we will sit
Crown'd with fresh flowers like—
Myr. Victims.
Sar. No, like sovereigns,
The shepherd kings of patriarchal times,
Who knew no brighter gems than summer
wreaths,
And none but tearless triumphs. Let us on.

Enter PANIA.

Pan. May the king live forever.
Sar. Not an hour
Longer than he can love. How my soul hates
This language, which makes life itself a lie,
Flattering dust with eternity! Well, Pania!
Be brief.
Pan. I am charged by Salemenes to
Reiterate his prayer unto the king,
That for this day, at least, he will not quit
The palace: when the general returns,
He will adduce such reasons as will warrant
His daring, and perhaps obtain the pardon
Of his presumption.
Sar. What! am I then coop'd!
Already captive? can I not even breathe
The breath of heaven? Tell Prince Sale-
menes,
Were all Assyria ranging round the walls
In mutinous myriads, I would still go forth.
Pan. I must obey you, and yet—
Myr. Oh, monarch, listen.—
How many a day and moon thou hast re-
clined
Within these palace walls in silken dalliance,
And never shown thee to thy people's longing;
Leaving thy subjects' eyes ungratified,
The satraps uncontroll'd, the gods unwor-
shipp'd,
And all things in the anarchy of sloth,
Till, all, save evil, slumber'd through the
realm;
And wilt thou not now tarry for a day,
A day which may redeem thee? Wilt thou not
Yield to the few still faithful a few hours,
For them, for thee, for thy past fathers' race,
And for thy son's inheritance?
Pan. 'Tis true!
From the deep urgency with which the prince
Despatch'd me to your sacred presence, I
Must dare to add my feeble voice to that
Which now has spoken.
Sar. No, it must not be.
Myr. For the sake of thy realm!
Sar. Away!
Pan. For that
Of all thy faithful subjects, who will rally
Round thee and thine.
Sar. These are mere phantasies:
There is no peril:—'tis a sullen scheme
Of Salemenes, to approve his zeal,
And show himself more necessary to us.
Myr. By all that's good and glorious, take
this counsel.
Sar. Business to-morrow.
Myr. Ay, or death to-night.
Sar. Why, let it come then unexpectedly,
'Midst joy and gentleness, and mirth and love;
So let me fall like the pluck'd rose!—far
better
Thus than be wither'd.
Myr. Then thou wilt not yield,
Even for the sake of all that ever stirr'd
A monarch into action, to forgo
A trifling revel.
Sar. No.
Myr. Then yield for *mine;*
For my sake!
Sar. Thine, my Myrrha!
Myr. 'Tis the first
Boon which I ever ask'd Assyria's king.
Sar. That's true, and were't my kingdom,
must be granted.
Well, for thy sake, I yield me. Pania, hence!
Thou hear'st me.
Pan. And obey. [*Exit* PANIA.
Sar. I marvel at thee.
What is thy motive, Myrrha, thus to urge me?
Myr. Thy safety; and the certainty that
nought
Could urge the prince thy kinsman to require
Thus much from thee, but some impending
danger. thou?
Sar. And if I do not dread it, why shouldst
Myr. Because *thou* dost not fear, I fear
for *thee.*
Sar. To-morrow thou wilt smile at these
vain fancies.

Myr. If the worst come, I shall be where none weep
And that is better than the power to smile,
And thou?
Sar. I shall be king, as heretofore.
Myr. Where?
Sar. With Baal, Nimrod, and Semiramis
Sole in Assyria, or with them elsewhere.
Fate made me what I am—may make me noth-
But either that or nothing must I be: [ing—
I will not live degraded.
Myr. Hadst thou felt
Thus always, none would ever dare degrade thee.
Sar. And who will do so now?
Myr. Dost thou suspect none?
Sar. Suspect!—that's a spy's office. Oh! we lose
Ten thousand precious moments in vain words,
And vainer fears. Within there!—ye slaves, deck
The hall of Nimrod for the evening revel:
If I must make a prison of our palace,
At least we'll wear our fetters jocundly;
If the Euphrates be forbid us, and
The summer dwellings on its bounteous border,
Here we are still unmenaced. Ho! within there! [*Exit* SARDANAPALUS.
Myr. [*sola*]. Why do I love this man? my country's daughters
Love none but heroes. But I have no country!
The slave hath lost all save her bonds. I love him;
And that's the heaviest link of the long chain—
To love whom we esteem not. Be it so:
The hour is coming when he'll need all love,
And find none. To fall from him now were baser
Than to have stabb'd him on his throne when highest
Would have been noble in my country's creed;
I was not made for either. Could I save him,
I should not love *him* better, but myself;
And I have need of the last, for I have fallen
In my own thoughts, by loving this soft stranger:
And yet methinks I love him more, perceiving
That he is hated of his own barbarians,
The natural foes of all the blood of Greece.
Could I but wake a single thought like those
Which even the Phyrgians felt when battling long
'Twixt Ilion and the sea, within his heart,
He would tread down the barbarous crowds, and triumph.
He loves me, and I love him; the slave loves
Her master, and would free him from his vices.
If not, I have the means of freedom still,
And if I cannot teach him how to reign,
May show him how alone a king can leave
His throne. I must not lose him from my sight. [*Exit.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*The Portal of the same Hall of the Palace.*

Beleses [*solus*]. The sun goes down; methinks he sets more slowly,
Taking his last look at Assyria's empire.
How red he glares amongst those deepening clouds,
Like the blood he predicts! If not in vain,
Thou sun that sinkest, and ye stars which rise,
I have outwatch'd ye, reading ray by ray
The edicts of your orbs, which make Time tremble [furthest
For what he brings the nations, 'tis the
Hour of Assyria's years. And yet how calm!
An earthquake should announce so great a
A summer's sun discloses it. Yon disk, [fall—
To the star-read Chaldean, bears upon
Its everlasting page the end of what
Seem'd everlasting; but oh! thou true sun!
The burning oracle of all that live,
As fountain of all life, and symbol of
Him who bestows it, wherefore dost thou limit
Thy lore unto calamity? Why not
Unfold the rise of days more worthy thine
All-glorious burst from ocean? why not dart
A beam of hope athwart the future years,
As of wrath to its days? Hear me! oh, hear me!
I am thy worshipper, thy priest, thy servant—
I have gazed on thee at thy rise and fall,
And bow'd my head beneath thy mid-day beams, [watch'd
When my eye dared not meet thee. I have
For thee, and after thee, and pray'd to thee,
And sacrificed to thee, and read, and fear'd thee,
And ask'd of thee, and thou hast answer'd—but
Only to thus much: while I speak he sinks—
Is gone—and leaves his beauty, not his knowl-
To the delighted west, which revels in [edge,
Its hues of dying glory. Yet what is
Death, so it be but glorious? 'Tis a sunset;
And mortals may be happy to resemble
The gods but in decay.

Enter ARBACES *by an inner door.*

Arb. Beleses, why
So rapt in thy devotions? Dost thou stand
Gazing to trace thy disappearing god
Into some realm of undiscover'd day?
Our business is with night—'tis come.
Bel. But not
Gone.
Arb. Let it roll on—we are ready.
Bel. Yes:
Would it were over!
Arb. Does the prophet doubt,
To whom the very stars shine victory?
Bel. I do not doubt of victory—but the victor. time
Arb. Well, let thy science settle that. Meanwhile
I have prepared as many glittering spears
As will out-sparkle our allies—your planets.
There is no more to thwart us. The she-king,

That less than woman, is even now upon
The waters with his female mates. The order
Is issued for the feast in the pavilion,
The first cup which he drains will be the last
Quaff'd by the line of Nimrod.
Bel. 'Twas a brave one.
Arb. And is a weak one—'tis worn out—
Bel. Art sure of that? [we'll mend it.
Arb. Its founder was a hunter—
I am a soldier—what is there to fear?
Bel. The soldier.
Arb. And the priest, it may be; but
If you thought thus, or think, why not retain
Your king of concubines? why stir me up?
Why spur me to this enterprise? your own
No less than mine?
Bel. Look to the sky!
Arb. I look.
Bel. What seest thou?
Arb. A fair summer's twilight, and
The gathering of the stars.
Bel. And midst them, mark
Yon earliest, and the brightest, which so quivers,
As it would quit its place in the blue ether.
Arb. Well!
Bel. 'Tis thy natal ruler—thy birth planet.
Arb. [*touching his scabbard*]. My star is in this scabbard: when it shines,
It shall out-dazzle comets. Let us think
Of what is to be done to justify
Thy planets and their portents. When we conquer, [thou
They shall have temples—ay, and priests—and
Shalt be the pontiff of—what gods thou wilt;
For I observe that they are ever just,
And own the bravest for the most devout.
Bel. Ay, and the most devout for brave—thou hast not
Seen me turn back from battle.
Arb. No; I own thee
As firm in fight as Babylonia's captain,
As skillful in Chaldea's worship: now,
Will it but please thee to forget the priest,
And be the warrior?
Bel. Why not both?
Arb. The better;
And yet it almost shames me, we shall have
So little to effect. This woman's warfare
Degrades the very conqueror. To have pluck'd
A bold and bloody despot from his throne,
And grappled with him, clashing steel with steel,
That were heroic or to win or fall; [steel,
But to upraise my sword against this silk-
And hear him whine, it may be— [worm;
Bel. Do not deem it:
He has that in him which may make you strife yet; [hardy,
And were he all you think, his guards are
And headed by the cool, stern Salemenes.
Arb. They'll not resist.
Bel. Why not? they are soldiers.
Arb. True,
And therefore need a soldier to command them.
Bel. That Salemenes is.
Arb. But not their king.
Besides, he hates the effeminate thing that governs,
For the queen's sake, his sister. Mark you not
He keeps aloof from all the revels?
Bel. But
Not from the council—there he is ever constant.
Arb. And ever thwarted: what would you have more
To make a rebel out of? A fool reigning,
His blood dishonor'd, and himself disdain'd:
Why, it is *his* revenge we work for.
Bel. Could
He but be brought to think so: this I doubt of.
Arb. What, if we sound him?
Bel. Yes—if the time served.

Enter BALEA.

Bal. Satraps! The king commands your presence at
The feast to-night. [presence at
Bel. To hear is to obey.
In the pavilion?
Bal. No; here in the palace.
Arb. How! in the palace? it was not thus
Bal. It is so order'd now. [order'd.
Arb. And why?
Bal. I know not.
May I retire.
Arb. Stay. [way.
Bel. [*to* ARB. *aside*]. Hush! let him go his
[*Alternately to* BAL.] Yes, Balea, thank the monarch, kiss the hem
Of his imperial robe, and say, his slaves
Will take the crumbs he deigns to scatter from
His royal table at the hour—was't midnight?
Bal. It was: the place, the hall of Nimrod. Lords,
I humble me before you, and depart.
[*Exit* BALEA.
Arb. I like not this same sudden change of place, [change it?
There is some mystery: wherefore should he
Bel. Doth he not change a thousand times a day?
Sloth is of all things the most fanciful—
And moves more parasangs in its intents
Than generals in their marches, when they seek [muse?
To leave their foe at fault.—Why dost thou
Arb. He loved that gay pavilion—it was
His summer dotage. [ever
Bel. And he loved his queen—
And thrice a thousand harlotry besides—
And he has loved all things by turns, except
Wisdom and glory.
Arb. Still—I like it not.
If he has changed—why, so must we: the
Were easy in the isolated bower, [attack
Beset with drowsy guards and drunken cour-
But in the hall of Nimrod— [tiers;
Bel. Is it so?
Methought the haughty soldier fear'd to mount
A throne too easily—does it disappoint thee
To find there is a slipperier step or two

Than what was counted on?
Arb. When the hour comes
Thou shalt perceive how far I fear or no.
Thou hast seen my life at stake—and gaily play'd for:
But here is more upon the die—a kingdom.
Bel. I have foretold already—thou wilt win it:
Then on and prosper.
Arb. Now, were I a soothsayer,
I would have boded so much to myself.
But be the stars obey'd—I cannot quarrel
With them nor their interpreter. Who's here?

Enter SALEMENES.

Sal. Satraps!
Bel. My prince!
Sal. Well met—I sought ye both,
But elsewhere than the palace.
Arb. Wherefore so?
Sal. 'Tis not the hour.
Arb. The hour—what hour?
Sal. Of midnight.
Bel. Midnight, my lord?
Sal. What, are ye not invited?
Bel. Oh! yes—we had forgotten.
Sal. Is it usual
Thus to forget a sovereign's invitation?
Arb. Why—we but now received it.
Sal. Then why here?
Arb. On duty.
Sal. On what duty?
Arb. On the state's.
Sal. We have the privilege to approach the presence,
But found the monarch absent.
Sal. And I too
Am upon duty.
Arb. May we crave its purport?
Sal. To arrest two traitors. Guards! Within there!

Enter Guards.

Sal. [*continuing*]. Satraps!
Your swords.
Bel. [*delivering his*]. My lord, behold my scimitar.
Arb. [*drawing his sword*]. Take mine.
Sal. [*advancing*]. I will.
Arb. But in your heart the blade—
The hilt quits not this hand.
Sal. [*drawing*]. How! dost thou brave me?
'Tis well—this saves a trial, and false mercy.
Soldiers, hew down the rebel!
Arb. Soldiers! Ay—
Alone you dare not.
Sal. Alone, foolish slave—
What is there in thee that a prince should shrink from
Of open force? We dread thy treason, not
Thy strength: thy tooth is naught without its venom—
The serpent's, not the lion's. Cut him down.
Bel. [*interrupting*]. Arbaces! are you mad?
Have I not render'd
My sword? Then trust like me our sovereign's justice.
Arb. No—I will sooner trust the stars thou prat'st of,
And this slight arm, and die a king at least
Of my own breath and body—so far that
None else shall chain them.
Sal. [*to the Guards*]. You hear *him* and *me*.
Take him not—kill.

[*The Guards attack* ARBACES, *who defends himself valiantly and dexterously till they waver.*

Sal. It is even so; and must
I do the hangman's office? Recreants! see
How you should fell a traitor.

[SALEMENES *attacks* ARBACES.

Enter SARDANAPALUS *and Train.*

Sar. Hold your hands—
Upon your lives, I say. What, deaf or drunken? [fellow,
My sword! O fool, I wear no sword: here,
Give me thy weapon. [*To a Guard.*

[SARDANAPALUS *snatches a sword from one of the soldiers and makes between the combatants—they separate.*

Sar. In my very palace!
What hinders me from cleaving you in twain,
Audacious brawlers?
Bel. Sire, your justice.
Sal. Or—
Your weakness.
Sar. [*raising the sword*]. How?
Sal. Strike! so the blow's repeated
Upon yon traitor—whom you spare a moment,
I trust, for torture—I'm content.
Sar. What—him!
Who dares assail Arbaces?
Sal. I!
Sar. Indeed!
Prince, you forget yourself. Upon what warrant?
Sal. [*showing the signet*]. Thine.
Arb. [*confused*]. The king's!
Sal. Yes! and let the king confirm it.
Sar. I parted not from this for such a purpose.
Sal. You parted with it for your safety—I
Employ'd it for the best. Pronounce in person.
Here I am but your slave—a moment past
I was your representative.
Sar. Then sheath
Your swords.

[ARBACES *and* SALEMENES *return their swords to their scabbards.*

Sal. Mine's sheath'd: I pray you sheath *not* yours:
'Tis the sole sceptre left you now with safety.
Sar. A heavy one; the hilt, too, hurts my hand. [back. Well, sirs,
[*To a Guard.*] Here, fellow, take thy weapon
What doth this mean?
Bel. The prince must answer that.
Sal. Truth upon my part, treason upon theirs. [Beleses?
Sal. Treason—Arbaces! treachery and
That were an union I will not believe.
Bel. Where is the proof?

Sal. I'll answer that, if once
The king demands your fellow-traitor's sword.
Arb. [*to* SAL.] A sword which hath been drawn as oft as thine.
Against his foe.
Sal. And now against his brother,
And in an hour or so against himself. [no—
Sar. That is not possible; he dare not;
No—I'll not hear of such things.—These vain bickerings [baser
Are spawn'd in courts by base intrigues, and Hirelings, who live by lies on good men's lives.
You must have been deceived, my brother.
Sal. First
Let him deliver up his weapon, and
Proclaim himself your subject by that duty,
And I will answer all.
Sal. Why, if I thought so—
But no, it cannot be: the Mede Arbaces—
The trusty, rough, true soldier—the best captain
Of all who discipline our nations——No,
I'll not insult him thus, to bid him render
The scimitar to me he never yielded
Unto our enemies. Chief, keep your weapon.
Sal. [*delivering back the signet.*] Monarch, take back your signet.
Sar. No, retain it;
But use it with more moderation.
Sal. Sire
I used it for your honor, and restore it
Because I cannot keep it with my own.
Bestow it on Arbaces.
Sar. So I should:
He never ask'd it.
Sal. Doubt not, he will have it
Without that hollow semblance of respect.
Bel. I know not what hath prejudiced the prince [none
So strongly 'gainst two subjects, than whom
Have been more zealous for Assyria's weal.
Sal. Peace, factious priest, and faithless soldier! thou
Unitest in thy own person the worst vices
Of the most dangerous orders of mankind.
Keep thy smooth words and juggling homilies
For those who know thee not. Thy fellow's sin
Is, at the least, a bold one, and not temper'd
By the tricks taught thee in Chaldea.
Bel. Hear him,
My liege—the son of Belus! he blasphemes
The worship of the land which bows thee knee
Before your fathers.
Sar. Oh! for that I pray you
Let him have absolution. I dispense with
The worship of dead men; feeling that I
Am mortal, and believing that the race
From whence I sprung are—what I see them—ashes.
Bel. King! do not deem so: they are with
And— [the stars,
Sar. You shall join them there ere they will rise, [son,
If you preach further.—Why, *this* is rank trea-
Sal. My lord!
Sar. To school me in the worship of
Assyria's idols! Let him be released!
Give him his sword.
Sal. My lord, and king, and brother,
I pray you pause.
Sar. Yes, and be sermonized,
And dinn'd and deafen'd with the dead men
And all Chaldea's starry mysteries. [Baal,
Bel. Monarch! respect them.
Sar. Oh! for that—I love them;
I love to watch them in the deep blue vault,
And to compare them with my Myrrha's eyes;
I love to see their rays redoubled in
The tremulous silver of Euphrates' wave,
As the light breeze of midnight crisps the broad
And rolling water, sighing through the sedges
Which fringe his banks: but whether they may be
Gods, as some say, or the abodes of gods,
As others hold, or simply lamps of night,
Worlds, or the lights of worlds, I know nor care not.
There's something sweet in my uncertainty
I would not change for your Chaldean lore;
Besides, I know of these all clay can know
Or aught above it, or below it—nothing.
I see their brilliancy and feel their beauty—
When they shine on my grave I shall know neither.
Bel. For *neither*, sire, say *better*.
Sar. I will wait,
If it so please you, pontiff, for that knowledge,
In the mean time receive your sword, and
That I prefer your service militant [know
Unto your ministry—not loving either.
Sal. [*aside*]. His lusts have made him mad. Then must I save him,
Spite of himself.
Sar. Please you to hear me, Satraps!
And chiefly thou, my priest, because I doubt thee [all
More than the soldier: and would doubt thee
Were thou not half a warrior: let us part
In peace—I'll not say pardon—which must be
Earn'd by the guilty; this I'll not pronounce ye,
Although upon this breath of mine depends
Your own; and, deadlier for ye, on my fears.
But fear not—for that I am soft, not fearful—
And so live on. Were I the thing some think me [drops
Your heads would now be dripping the last
Of their attainted gore from the high gates
Of this our palace, into the dry dust,
Their only portion of the coveted kingdom
They would be crown'd to reign o'er—let that pass.
As I have said, I will not *deem* ye guilty,
Nor *doom* ye guiltless. Albeit better men
Than ye or I stand ready to arraign you;
And should I leave your fate to sterner judges,
And proofs of all kinds, I might sacrifice
Two men, who, whatsoe'er they are now, were
Once honest. Ye are free, sirs.

Arb. Sire, this clemency—
Bel. [*interrupting him.*] Is worthy of yourself; and, although innocent,
We thank—
Sar. Priest! keep your thanksgivings for
His offspring needs none. [Belus;
Bel. But being innocent—
Sar. Be silent.—Guilt is loud. If ye are loyal, [grateful.
Ye are injured men, and should be sad, not
Bel. So we should be, were justice always done
By earthly power omnipotent; but innocence
Must oft receive her right as a mere favor.
Sar. That's a good sentence for a homily,
Though not for this occasion. Prithee keep it
To plead thy sovereign's cause before his
Bel. I trust there is no cause. [people.
Sar. No *cause*, perhaps,
But many causers:—if ye meet with such
In the exercise of your inquisitive function
On earth, or should you read of it in heaven
In some mysterious twinkle of the stars,
Which are your chronicles, I pray you note,
That there are worse things betwixt earth and heaven
Than him who ruleth many and slays none;
And, hating not himself, yet loves his fellows
Enough to spare even those who would not spare him [Satraps!
Were they once masters—but that's doubtful.
Your swords and persons are at liberty
To use them as ye will—but from this hour
I have no call for either. Salemenes!
Follow me.

[*Exeunt* SARDANAPALUS, SALEMENES, *and the Train, etc., leaving* ARBACES *and* BELESES.

Arb. Beleses!
Bel. Now, what think you?
Arb. That we are lost.
Bel. That we have won the kingdom.
Arb. What? thus suspected—with the sword slung o'er us
But by a single hair, and that still wavering,
To be blown down by his imperious breath
Which spared us—why, I know not.
Bel. Seek not why;
But let us profit by the interval [same—
The hour is still our own—our power the
The night the same we destined. He hath
Nothing except our ignorance of all[changed
Suspicion into such a certainty
As make madness of delay.
Arb. And yet—
Bel. What, doubting still?
Arb. He spared our lives, nay, more,
Saved them from Salemenes.
Bel. And how long
Will he so spare? till the first drunken minute.
Arb. Or sober, rather. Yet he did it nobly;
Gave royally what we had forfeited
Basely—
Bel. Say bravely.
Arb. Somewhat of both, perhaps,
But it has touch'd me, and, whate'er betide,
I will no further on.
Bel. And lose the world!
Arb. Lose anything except my own esteem.
Bel. I blush that we should owe our lives to such
A king of distaffs.
Arb. But no less we owe them!!
And I should blush far more to take the grantor's!
Bel. Thou may'st endure whate'er thou
Have written otherwise. [wilt—the stars
Arb. Though they came down,
And marshall'd me the way in all their brightness,
I would not follow. [This is weakness—worse
Bel.
Than a scared beldam's dreaming of the dead,
And waking in the dark.—Go to—go to.
Arb. Methought he look'd like Nimrod as he spoke,
Even as the proud imperial statue stands
Looking the monarch of the kings around it,
And sways, while they but ornament, the temple. [despised him,
Bel. I told you that you had too much
And that there was some royalty within him—
What then? he is the nobler foe.
Arb. But we
The meaner.—Would he had not spared us!!
Bel. So—
Wouldst thou be sacrificed thus readily?
Arb. No—but it had been better to have
Than live ungrateful. [died
Bel. Oh, the souls of some men;
Thou wouldst digest what some call treason, and [den,
Fools treachery—and, behold, upon the sud-
Because for something or for nothing, this
Rash reveller steps, ostentatiously,
'Twixt thee and Salemenes, thou art turn'd
Into—what shall I say?—Sardanapalus!
I know no name more ignominious.
Arb. But
An hour ago, who dared to term me such
Had held his life but lightly—as it is,
I must forgive you, even as he forgave us—
Semiramis herself would not have done it.
Bel. No—the queen liked no sharers of the kingdom,
Not even a husband.
Arb. I must serve him truly—
Bel. And humbly?
Arb. No, sir, proudly—being honest.
I shall be nearer thrones than you to heaven;
And if not quite so haughty, yet more lofty.
You may do your own deeming—you have
And mysteries, and corollaries of [codes.
Right and wrong, which I lack for my direction, [teaches.
And must pursue but what a plain heart
And now you know me.
Bel. Have you finish'd?
Arb. Yes—
With you.
Bel. And would, perhaps, betray as well
As quit me?

Arb. That's a sacerdotal thought,
And not a soldier's.
Bel. Be it what you will—
Truce with these wranglings, and but hear me.
Arb. No—
There is more peril in your subtle spirit
Than in a phalanx.
Bel. If it must be so—
I'll on alone.
Arb. Alone!
Bel. Thrones hold but one.
Arb. But this is fill'd.
Bel. With worse than vacancy—
A despised monarch. Look to it, Arbaces:
I have still aided, cherish'd, loved and urged you;
Was willing even to serve you, in the hope
To serve and save Assyria. Heaven itself
Seem'd to consent, and all events were friendly
Even to the last, till that your spirit shrunk
Into a shallow softness; but now, rather
Than see my country languish, I will be
Her savior or the victim of her tyrant,
Or one or both, for sometimes both are one;
And if I win, Arbaces is my servant.
Arb. *Your* servant!
Bel. Why not? better than be slave,
The *pardon'd* slave of *she* Sardanapalus!

Enter PANIA.

Pan. My lords, I bear an order from the [king.
Arb. It is obey'd ere spoken.
Bel. Notwithstanding,
Let's hear it.
Pan. Forthwith, on this very night,
Repair to your respective satrapies
Of Babylon and Media.
Bel. With our troops?
Pan. My order is unto the satraps and
Their household train.
Arb. But—
Bel. It must be obey'd;
Say, we depart.
Pan. My order is to see you
Depart, and not to bear your answer.
Bel. [*aside.*] Ay!
Well, sir, we will accompany you hence.
Pan. I will retire to marshal forth the guard
Of honor, which befits your rank, and wait
Your leisure, so that the hour exceeds not.
[*Exit* PANIA.
Bel. *Now* then obey!
Arb. Doubtless.
Bel. Yes, to the gates
That grate the palace, which is now our pris- [on—
No further.
Arb. Thou hast harp'd the truth indeed!
The realm itself, in all its wide extension,
Yawns dungeons at each step for thee and me.
Bel. Graves!
Arb. If I thought so, this good sword should
One more than mine. [dig
Bel. It shall have work enough.
Let me hope better than thou augurest;
At present, let us hence as best we may.
Thou dost agree with me in understanding
This order as a sentence.
Arb. Why, what other
Interpretation should it bear? it is
The very policy of Orient monarchs—
Pardon and poison—favors and a sword—
A distant voyage, and an eternal sleep.
How many satraps in his father's time—
For he I own is, or at least *was*, bloodless—
Bel. But *will* not, *can* not be so now.
Arb. I doubt it.
How many satraps have I seen set out
In his sire's day for mighty vice-royalties,
Whose tombs are on their path! I know not
But they all sicken'd by the way, it was [how,
So long and heavy.
Bel. Let us but regain
The free air of the city, and we'll shorten
The journey.
Arb. 'Twill be shorten'd at the gates,
It may be.
Bel. No; they hardly will risk that.
They mean us to die privately, but not
Within the palace or the city walls, [sans:
Where we are known, and may have parti-
If they had meant to slay us here, we were
No longer with the living. Let us hence.
Arb. If I but thought he did not mean my life— [ism alarm'd
Bel. Fool! hence—what else should despot-
Mean? Let us but rejoin our troops, and
Arb. Towards our provinces? [march.
Bel. No; towards your kingdom.
There's time, there's heart, and hope, and power, and means, [scope.—
Which their half measures leave us in full
Away!
Arb. And I even yet repenting must
Relapse to guilt!
Bel. Self-defence is a virtue,
Sole bulwark of all right. Away, I say!
Let's leave this place, the air grows thick and choking, [hence!
And the walls have a scent of night-shade—
Let us not leave them time for further counsel.
Our quick departure proves our civic zeal;
Our quick departure hinders our good escort,
The worthy Pania, from anticipating
The orders of some parasangs from hence:
Nay, there's no other choice, but—hence, I say.
[*Exit with* ARBACES, *who follows reluctantly.*

Enter SARDANAPALUS *and* SALEMENES.

Sar. Well, all is remedied, and without bloodshed,
That worst of mockeries of a remedy;
We are now secure by these men's exile.
Sal. Yes,
As he who treads on flowers is from the adder
Twined round their roots.
Sar. Why, what wouldst have me do?
Sal. Undo what you have done.
Sar. Revoke my pardon?
Sal. Replace the crown now tottering on
Sar. That were tyrannical. [your temples.
Sal. But sure,

Sar. We are so.
What danger can they work upon the frontier?
Sal. They are not there yet—never should
Were I well listen'd to. [they be so,
Sar. Nay, I have listen'd
Impartially to thee—why not to them?
Sal. You may know that hereafter; as it is,
I take my leave to order forth the guard.
Sar. And you will join us at the banquet?
Sal. Sire,
Dispense with me—I am no wassailer: [ant's.
Command me in all service save the Bacch-
Sar. Nay, but 'tis fit to revel now and then.
Sal. And fit that some should watch for those who revel
Too oft. Am I permitted to depart?
Sar. Yes—Stay a moment, my good Salemenes,
My brother, my best subject, better prince
Than I am king. You should have been the monarch,
And I—I know not what, and care not; but
Think not I am insensible to all
Thine honest wisdom and thy rough yet kind,
Though oft reproving, sufferance of my follies.
If I have spared these men against thy coun-
That is, their lives—it is not that I doubt [sel,
The advice was sound; but let them live: we will not [them.
Cavil about their lives—so let them mend
Their banishment will still leave me sound
Which their death had not left me. [sleep,
Sal. Thus you run
The risk to sleep forever, to save traitors—
A moment's pang now changed for years of
Still let them be made quiet. [crime.
Sar. Tempt me not;
My word is past.
Sal. But it may be recall'd.
Sar. 'Tis royal.
Sal. And should therefore be decisive.
This half indulgence of an exile serves
But to provoke—a pardon should be full
Or it is none.
Sar. And who persuaded me
After I had repeal'd them, or at least
Only dismiss'd them from our presence, who
Urged me to send them to their satrapies?
Sal. True; that I had forgotten; that is, sire,
If they e'er reach'd their satrapies—why, then,
Reprove me more for my advice.
Sar. And if
They do not reach them—look to it!—in
In safety, mark me—and security— [safety,
Look to thine own.
Sal. Permit me to depart;
Their *safety* shall be cared for.
Sar. Get thee hence, then;
And, prithee, think more gently of thy brother.
Sal. Sire, I shall ever duly serve my sovereign. [*Exit* SALEMENES.
Sar. [*solus*]. That man is of a temper too severe;
Hard, but as lofty as the rock, and free
From all the taints of common earth—while I
Am softer clay, impregnated with flowers:
But as our mould is, must the produce be.
If I have err'd this time, 'tis on the side
Where error sits most lightly on that sense,
I know not what to call it; but it reckons
With me ofttimes for pain, and sometimes pleasure;
A spirit which seems placed about my heart
To count its throbs, not quicken them, and ask
Questions which mortal never dared to ask me,
Nor Baal, though an oracular deity—
Albeit his marble face majestical
Frowns as the shadows of the evening dim
His brows to changed expression, till at times
I think the statue looks in act to speak.
Away with these vain thoughts, I will be
And here comes Joy's true herald. [joyous—

Enter MYRRHA.

Myr. King! the sky
Is overcast, and musters muttering thunder,
In clouds that seem approaching fast, and show
In forked flashes a commanding tempest.
Will you then quit the palace?
Sar. Tempest, say'st thou?
Myr. Ay, my good lord.
Sar. For my own part, I should be
Not ill content to vary the smooth scene,
And watch the warring elements; but this
Would little suit the silken garments and
Smooth faces of our festive friends. Say, Myrrha,
Art thou of those who dread the roar of clouds?
Myr. In my own country we respect their
As auguries of Jove. [voices
Sar. Jove!—ay, your Baal—
Ours also has a property in thunder,
And ever and anon some falling bolt
Proves his divinity,—and yet sometimes
Strikes his own altars.
Myr. That were a dread omen.
Sar. Yes—for the priests. Well, we will not go forth
Beyond the palace walls to-night, but make
Our feast within.
Myr. Now, Jove be praised! that he
Hath heard the prayer thou wouldst not hear. The gods
Are kinder to thee than thou to thyself,
And flash this storm between thee and thy
To shield thee from them. [foes,
Sar. Child, if there be peril,
Methinks it is the same within these walls
As on the river's brink.
Myr. Not so; these walls
Are high and strong and guarded. Treason has
To penetrate through many a winding way,
And massy portal; but in the pavilion
There is no bulwark.
Sar. No, nor in the palace,
Nor in the fortress, nor upon the top [sits
Of cloud-fenced Caucasus, where the eagle
Nested in pathless clefts, if treachery be:
Even as the arrow finds the airy king,

The steel will reach the earthly. But be calm;
The men, or innocent or guilty, are
Banish'd, and far upon their way.
Myr. They live, then?
Sar. So sanguinary? *Thou!*
Myr. I would not shrink
From just infliction of due punishment
On those who seek your life; were't otherwise,
I should not merit mine. Besides, you heard
The princely Salemenes.
Sar. This is strange;
The gentle and the austere are both against
And urge me to revenge. [me,
Myr. 'Tis a Greek virtue.
Sar. But not a kingly one—I'll none on't;
If ever I indulge in't, it shall be [or
With kings—my equals.
Myr. These men sought to be so.
Sar. Myrrha, this is too feminine, and
From fear— [springs
Myr. For you.
Sar. No matter, still 'tis fear.
I have observed your sex, once roused to
Are timidly vindictive to a pitch [wrath,
Of perseverance, which I would not copy.
I thought you were exempt from this, as from
The childish helpless of Asian women.
Myr. My lord, I am no boaster of my love,
Nor of my attributes; I have shared your
splendor,
And will partake your fortunes. You may live
To find one slave more true than subject myr-
But this the gods avert! I am content [iads:
To be beloved on trust for what I feel,
Rather than prove it to you in your griefs,
Which might not yield to any cares of mine.
Sar. Grief cannot come where perfect love
exists,
Except to heighten it, and vanish from [in—
That which it could not scare away. Let's
The hour approaches, and we must prepare
To meet the invited guests who grace our
feast. [*Exeunt.*

ACT III.

Scene I.—*The hall of the Palace illuminated*—Sardanapalus *and his Guests at Table.*—*A storm without, and Thunder occasionally heard during the Banquet.*

Sar. Fill full; why, this is as it should be; here [faces
Is my true realm, amidst bright eyes and
Happy as fair. Here sorrow cannot reach.
Zam. Nor elsewhere—where the king is,
pleasure sparkles. [huntings,
Sar. Is not this now better than Nimrod's
Or my wild grandam's chase in search of king-
She could not keep when conquer'd? [doms
Alt. Mighty though
They were, as all thy royal line have been,
Yet none of these who went before have
The acmé of Sardanapalus, who [reach'd
Has placed his joy in peace—the sole true
glory. [glory
Sar. And pleasure, good Altada, to which
Is but the path. What is it that we seek?
Enjoyment! We have cut the way short to it,
And not gone tracking it through human
Making a grave with every footstep. [ashes,
Zam. No;
All hearts are happy, and all voices bless
The king of peace, who holds a world in
jubilee. [wise;
Sar. Art sure of that? I have heard other-
Some say that there be traitors.
Zam. Traitors they
Who dare to say so!—'Tis impossible.
What cause?
Sar. What cause? true,—fill the goblet up;
We will not think of them: there are none
Or if there be, they are gone. [such,
Alt. Guests, to my pledge!
Down on your knees, and drink a measure to
The safety of the king—the monarch, say I?
The god Sardanapalus!
[Zames *and the Guests kneel and exclaim*—
Mightier than
His father Baal, the god Sardanapalus!
[*It thunders as they kneel; some start up in confusion.*
Zam. Why do you rise, my friends! in that
His father gods consented. [strong peal
Myr. Menaced, rather.
King, wilt thou hear this mad impiety?
Sar. Impiety!—nay, if the sires who reign'd
Before me can be gods, I'll not disgrace
Their lineage. But arise, my pious friends;
Hoard your devotion for the thunderer there:
I seek but to be loved, not worshipp'd.
Alt. Both—
Both you must ever be by all true subjects.
Sar. Methinks the thunders still increase;
An awful night. [it is
Myr. Oh yes, for those who have
No palace to protect their worshippers.
Sar. That's true, my Myrrha; and could I
convert
My realm to one wide shelter for the wretched,
I'd do it.
Myr. Thou'rt no god, then, not to be
Able to work a will so good and general
As thy wish would imply.
Sar. And your gods, then,
Who can, and do not?
Myr. Do not speak of that,
Lest we provoke them.
Sar. True, they love not censure
Better than mortals. Friends, a thought has
struck me: [be,
Were there no temples, would there, think ye,
Air worshippers? that is, when it is angry,
And pelting as even now.
Myr. The Persian prays
Upon his mountain.
Sar. Yes, when the sun shines.
Myr. And I would ask if this your palace
were
Unroof'd and desolate, how many flatterers
Would lick the dust in which the king lay
Alt. The fair Ionian is too sarcastic [low?
Upon a nation whom she knows not well;

The Assyrians know no pleasure but their
And homage is their pride. [king's,
Sar. Nay, pardon, guests,
The fair Greek's readiness of speech.
All. *Pardon!* sire:
We honor her of all things next to thee.
Hark! what was that?
Zam. That! nothing but the jar
Of distant portals shaken by the wind.
All. It sounded like the clash of—hark again!
Zam. The big rain pattering on the roof.
Sar. No more.
Myrrha, my love, hast thou thy shell in order?
Sing me a song of Sappho—her, thou know'st,
Who in thy country threw—

Enter PANIA *with his sword and garments bloody and disordered. The guests rise in confusion.*

Pan. [*to the Guards.*] Look to the portals;
And with your best speed to the walls without.
Your arms! To arms! The king's in danger.
Excuse this haste,—'tis faith. [Monarch,
Sar. Speak on.
Pan. It is
As Salemenes fear'd; the faithless satraps—
Sar. You are wounded—give some wine.
Take breath, good Pania. [am worn
Pan. 'Tis nothing—a mere flesh wound. I
More with my speed to warn my sovereign,
Than hurt in his defence.
Myr. Well, sir, the rebels?
Pan. Soon as Arbaces and Beleses reach'd
Their stations in the city, they refused
To march; and on my attempt to use the power
Which I was delegated with, they call'd
Upon their troops, who rose in fierce defiance.
Myr. All?
Pan. Too many.
Sar. Spare not of thy free speech,
To spare mine ears the truth.
Pan. My own slight guard
Were faithful, and what's left of it is still so.
Myr. And are these all the force still faithful?
Pan. No—
The Bactrians, now led on by Salemenes,
Who even then was on his way, still urged
By strong suspicion of the Median chiefs,
Are numerous, and make strong head against
The rebels, fighting inch by inch, and forming
An orb around the palace, where they mean
To centre all their force, and save the king.
[*He hesitates.*] I am charged to—
Myr. 'Tis no time for hesitation.
Pan. Prince Salemenes doth implore the king
To arm himself, although but for a moment,
And show himself unto the soldiers: his
Sole presence in this instance might do more
Than hosts can do in his behalf.
Sar. What, ho!
My armor, there.
Myr. And wilt thou?
Sar. Will I not?
Ho, there!—but seek not for the buckler: 'tis
Too heavy:—a light cuirass and my sword.
Where are the rebels?
Pan. Scarce a furlong's length
From the outward wall the fiercest conflict rages. [Sfero, ho!
Sar. Then I may charge on horseback.
Order my horse out.—There is space enough
Even in our courts, and by the outer gate,
To marshal half the horsemen of Arabia.
[*Exit* SFERO, *for the armor.*
Myr. How I do love thee!
Sar. I ne'er doubted it.
Myr. But now I know thee. [spear too.—
Sar. [*To his Attendant.*] Bring down my
Where's Salemenes?
Pan. Where a soldier should be,
In the thick of the fight.
Sar. Then hasten to him—Is
The path still open, and communication
Left 'twixt the palace and the phalanx?
Pan. 'Twas
When I late left him, and I have no fear:
Our troops were steady, and the phalanx form'd. [present,
Sar. Tell him to spare his person for the
And that I will not spare my own—and say,
I come.
Pan. There's victory in the very word.
[*Exit* PANIA.
Sar. Altada—Zames—forth and arm ye!
Is all in readiness in the armory. [There
See that the women are bestow'd in safety
In the remote apartments: let a guard
Be set before them, with strict charge to quit
The post but with their lives—command it,
Altada, arm yourself, and return here; [Zames.
Your post is near our person.
[*Exeunt* ZAMES, ALTADA, *and all save* MYRRHA.

Enter SFERO *and others, with the King's arms, etc.*

Sfe. King! your armor.
Sar. [*Arming himself.*] Give me the cuirass—so: my baldric; now
My sword: I had forgot the helm, where is it?
That's well—no, 'tis too heavy! you mistake, too—
It was not this I meant, but that which bears
A diadem around it.
Sfe. Sire, I deem'd
That too conspicuous from the precious stones
To risk your sacred brow beneath—and trust
This is of better metal, though less rich. [me,
Sar. You deem'd! Are you too turn'd a rebel? Fellow!
Your part is to obey; return, and—no—
It is too late—I will go forth without it.
Sfe. At least, wear this.
Sar. Wear Caucasus! why, 'tis
A mountain on my temples.
Sfe. Sire, the meanest
Soldier goes not forth thus exposed to battle.
All men will recognize you—for the storm

Has ceased, and the moon breaks forth in her brightness.

Sar. I go forth to be recognized, and thus shall be so sooner. Now—my spear! I'm arm'd.

[*In going stops short, and turns to* SFERO.

Sfero—I had forgotten—bring the mirror.*

Sfe. The mirror, sire?

Sar. Yes, sir, of polish'd brass, Brought from the spoils of India—but be speedy. [*Exit* SFERO.

Sar. Myrrha, retire unto a place of safety.

Why went you not forth with the other dames?

Myr. Because my place is here. [sels?

Sar. And when I am gone—

Myr. I follow.

Sar. *You!* to battle?

Myr. If it were so, 'Twere not the first Greek girl had trod the path.

I will await here your *return*.

Sar. The place is spacious, and the first to be sought out, If they prevail; and, if it be so, And I return not—

Myr. Still we meet again.

Sar. How?

Myr. In the spot where all must meet at last— In Hades! If there be, as I believe, A shore beyond the Styx; and if there be not, In ashes.

Sar. Darest thou so much?

Myr. I dare all things Except survive what I have loved, to be A rebel's booty: forth, and do your bravest.

Re-enter SFERO *with the mirror.*

Sar. [*Looking at himself.*] This cuirass fits me well, the baldric better, And the helm not at all. Methinks I seem

Flings away the helmet after trying it again.

Passing well in these toys; and now to prove Altada! Where's Altada? [them.

Sfe. Waiting, sire, Without: he has your shield in readiness.

Sar. True; I forgot he is my shield-bearer By right of blood, derived from age to age. Myrrha, embrace me; yet once more—once more—

Love me, whate'er betide. My chiefest glory Shall be to make me worthier of your love.

Myr. Go forth, and conquer!

[*Exeunt* SARDANAPALUS *and* SFERO.

Now, I am alone, All are gone forth, and of that all how few Perhaps return. Let him but vanquish, and Me perish! If he vanquish not, I perish; For I will not outlive him. He has wound About my heart, I know not how nor why. Not for that he is king; for now his kingdom Rocks underneath his throne, and the earth yawns To yield him no more of it than a grave; And yet I love him more. Oh, mighty Jove! Forgive this monstrous love for a barbarian, Who knows not of Olympus! yes, I love him Now, now, far more than—Hark—to the war shock!

Methinks it nears me. If it should be so,

[*She draws forth a small vial.*

This cunning Colchian poison, which my father [taught me Learnt to compound on Euxine shores, and How to preserve, shall free me! It had freed Long ere this hour, but that I loved, until [me I half forgot I was a slave:—where all Are slaves save one, and proud of servitude, So they are served in turn by something lower In the degree of bondage, we forget That shackles worn like ornaments no less Are chains. Again that shout! and now the Of arms—and now—and now— [clash

Enter ALTADA.

Alt. Ho, Sfero, ho!

Myr. He is not here; what wouldst thou Goes on the conflict? [with him? How

Alt. Dubiously and fiercely.

Myr. And the king?

Alt. Like a king. I must find Sfero, And bring him a new spear and his own helmet.

He fights till now bareheaded, and by far Too much exposed. The soldiers know his face,

And the foe too; and in the moon's broad light, His silk tiara and his flowing hair Make him a mark too royal. Every arrow Is pointed at the fair hair and fair features, And the broad fillet which crowns both.

Myr. Ye gods, Who fulminate o'er my fathers' land, protect Were you sent by the king? [him!

Alt. By Salemenes, Who sent me privily upon this charge, [eign. Without the knowledge of this careless sover- The king! the king fights as he revels! ho! What, Sfero! I will seek the armory, He must be there. [*Exit* ALTADA.

Myr. 'Tis no dishonor—no— 'Tis no dishonor to have loved this man. I almost wish now, what I never wish'd Before, that he were Grecian. If Alcides Were shamed in wearing Lydian Omphale's She-garb, and wielding her vile distaff; surely He who springs up a Hercules at once, [hood, Nursed in effeminate arts from youth to man- And rushes from the banquet to the battle, As though it were a bed of love, deserves That a Greek girl should be his paramour, And a Greek bard his minstrel, a Greek tomb His monument. How goes the strife, sir?

Enter an OFFICER.

Officer. Lost, Lost almost past recovery. Zames! Where Is Zames?

Myr. Posted with the guard appointed To watch before the apartment of the women.

[*Exit* OFFICER.

Myr. [*sola*]. He's gone; and told no more than that all's lost!

* "Such the mirror Otho held, In the Illyrian field."—See JOURNAL.

What need have I to know more? In those words,
Those little words, a kingdom and a king,
A line of thirteen ages, and the lives
Of thousands, and the fortune of all left
With life, are merged; and I, too, with the great,
Like a small bubble breaking with the wave
Which bore it, shall be nothing. At the least,
My fate is in my keeping: no proud victor
Shall count me with his spoils.

Enter PANIA.

Pan. Away with me,
Myrrha, without delay; we must not lose
A moment—all that's left us now.
Myr. The king?
Pan. Sent me here to conduct you hence,
The river, by a secret passage. [beyond
Myr. Then
He lives—
Pan. And charged me to secure your life,
And beg you to live on for his sake, till
He can rejoin you.
Myr. Will he then give way?
Pan. Not till the last Still, still he does whate'er
Despair can do; and step by step disputes
The very palace.
Myr. They are here, then:—ay,
Their shouts come ringing through the ancient halls,
Never profaned by rebel echoes till [this fatal night. Farewell, Assyria's line! Farewell to all of Nimrod! Even the name I now no more.
Pan. Away with me—away!
Myr. No: I'll die here!—Away, and tell
I loved him to the last. [your king

Enter SARDANAPALUS *and* SALEMENES *with Soldiers.* PANIA *quits* MYRRHA, *and ranges himself with them.*

Sar. Since it is thus,
We'll die where we were born—in our own halls. [patch'd
Serry your ranks—stand firm. I have despatch'd
A trusty satrap for the guard of Zames,
All fresh and faithful; they'll be here anon.
All is not over.—Pania, look to Myrrha.
[PANIA *turns towards* MYRRHA.
Sal. We have breathing time; yet once more charge, my friends—
One for Assyria!
Sar. Rather say for Bactria!
My faithful Bactrians, I will henceforth be
King of your nation, and we'll hold together
This realm as province.
Sal. Hark! they come—they come.

Enter BELESES *and* ARBACES *with the* REBELS.

Arb. Set on, we have them in the toil.
Charge! charge! [with us—On!
Bel. On! on!—Heaven fights for us, and
[*They charge the* KING *and* SALEMENES *with their troops, who defend themselves till the arrival of* ZAMES *with the* GUARD *before mentioned. The* REBELS *are then driven off, and pursued by* SALEMENES, *etc. As the* KING *is going to join the pursuit,* BELESES *crosses him.*

Bel. Ho! tyrant—I will end this war.
Sar. Even so.
My warlike priest, and precious prophet, and
Grateful and trusty subject: yield, I pray thee.
I would reserve thee for a fitter doom,
Rather than dip my hands in holy blood.
Bel. Thine hour is come.
Sar. No, thine—I've lately read,
Though but a young astrologer, the stars;
And ranging round the zodiac, found thy fate
In the sign of the Scorpion, which proclaims
That thou wilt now be crush'd.
Bel. But not by thee.
[*They fight;* BELESES *is wounded and disarmed.*
Sar. [*raising his sword to despatch him, exclaims*]—
Now call upon thy planets, will they shoot
From the sky to preserve their seer and credit?
[*A party of* REBELS *enter and rescue* BELESES.
They assail the KING, *who, in turn, is rescued by a party of his soldiers, who drive the* REBELS *off.*
The villain was a prophet after all.
Upon them—ho! there—victory is ours.
[*Exit in pursuit.*
Myr. [*to* PAN.] Pursue! Why stand'st thou here, and leav'st the ranks? [thee.
Pan. The king's command was not to quit
Myr. *Me!*
Think not of me—a single soldier's arm
Must not be wanting now. I ask no guard,
I need no guard: what, with a world at stake,
Keep watch upon a woman? Hence, I say,
Or thou art shamed! Nay, then, *I* will go forth,
A feeble female, 'midst their desperate strife,
And bid thee guard me *there*—where thou shouldst shield
Thy sovereign. *Exit* MYRRHA.
Pan. Yet stay, damsel! She is gone.
If aught or ill betide her, better I
Had lost my life. Sardanapalus holds her
Far dearer than his kingdom, yet he fights
For that too; and can I do less than he,
Who never flash'd a scimitar till now?
Myrrha, return, and I obey you, though
In disobedience to the monarch. [*Exit* PANIA.

Enter ALTADO *and* SFERO *by an opposite door.*

Alt. Myrrha!
What, gone? yet she was here when the fight raged, [them?
And Pania also. Can aught have befallen
Sfe. I saw both safe when late the rebels fled;
They probably are but retired to make
Their way back to the harem. [Their
Alt. If the king
Prove victor, as it seems even now he must,
And miss his own Ionian, we are doom'd
To worse than captive rebels.

Sfe. Let us trace them;
She cannot be fled far; and, found, she makes
A richer prize to our soft sovereign
Than his recover'd kingdom.
All. Baal himself
Ne'er fought more fiercely to win empire than
His silken son to save it: he defies
All augury of foes or friends; and like
The close and sultry summer's day, which bodes [der
A twilight tempest, bursts forth in such thun-
As sweeps the air and deluges the earth.
The man's inscrutable.
Sfe. Not more than others.
All are the sons of circumstance: away—
Let's seek the slave out, or prepare to be
Tortured for his infatuation, and
Condemn'd without a crime. [*Exeunt.*

Enter SALEMENES *and Soldiers, etc.*

Sal. The triumph is
Flattering: they are beaten backward from the palace,
And we have open'd regular access
To the troops station'd on the other side
Euphrates, who may still be true: nay, must be,
When they hear of our victory.—But where
Is the chief victor? where is the king?

Enter SARDANAPALUS, *cum suis, etc., and* MYRRHA.

Sar. Here, brother.
Sal. Unhurt, I hope.
Sar. Not quite; but let it pass.
We've clear'd the palace—
Sal. And I trust the city.
Our numbers gather; and I've order'd onward
A cloud of Parthians, hitherto reserved,
All fresh and fiery, to be pour'd upon them
In their retreat, which soon will be a flight.
Sar. It is already, or at least they march'd
Faster than I could follow with my Bactrians,
Who spared no speed. I am spent: give me
Sal. There stands the throne, sire. [a seat.
Sar. 'Tis no place to rest on,
For mind nor body: let me have a couch,
[*They place a seat.*
A peasant's stool, I care not what: so—now
I breathe more freely.
Sal. This great hour has proved
The brightest and most glorious of your life.
Sar. And the most tiresome. Where's my cupbearer?
Bring me some water. [
Sal. [*smiling*]. 'Tis the first time he
Ever had such an order: Even I,
Our most austere of counsellors, would now
Suggest a purpler beverage.
Sar. Blood—doubtless.
But there's enough of that shed; as for wine,
I have learn'd to-night the price of the pure element;
Thrice have I drank of it, and thrice renew'd
With greater strength than the grape ever gave me,
My charge upon the rebels. Where's the soldier
Who gave me water in his helmet?

One of the Guards. Slain sire!
An arrow pierced his brain, while scattering
The last drops from his helm, he stood in act
To place it on his brows.
Sar. Slain! unrewarded!
And slain to serve my thirst: that's hard, poor slave! [with
Had he but lived, I would have gorged him
Gold: all the gold of earth could ne'er repay
The pleasure of that draught: for I was parch'd
As I am now. [*They bring water—he drinks.*
I live again—from henceforth
The goblet I reserve for hours of love,
But war on water.
Sal. And that bandage, sire,
Which guards your arm?
Sar. A scratch from brave Beleses.
Myr. Oh! he is wounded!
Sar. Not too much of that;
And yet it feels a little stiff and painful,
Now I am cooler.
Myr. You have bound it with—
Sar. The fillet of my diadem: the first time
That ornament was ever aught to me
Save an encumbrance.
Myr. [*to the attendants*]. Summon speedily
A leech of the most skilful; pray, retire:
I will unbind your wound and tend it.
Sar. Do so,
For now it throbs sufficiently: but what [ask?
Know'st thou of wounds? yet wherefore do I
Know'st thou, my brother, where I lighted on
This minion?
Sal. Herding with the other females,
Like frighten'd antelopes.
Sar. No: like the dam
Of the young lion, femininely raging
(And femininely meaneth furiously,
Because all passions in excess are female)
Against the hunter flying with her cub,
She urged on with her voice and gesture, and
Her floating hair and flashing eyes, the sol- [diers,
In the pursuit.
Sal. Indeed!
Sar. You see, this night
Made warriors of more than me. I paused
To look upon her, and her kindled cheek;
Her large black eyes, that flash'd through her long hair, [rose
As it stream'd o'er her; her blue veins that
Along her most transparent brow; her nostril
Dilated from its symmetry; her lips [din
Apart: her voice that clove through all the
As a lute pierceth through the cymbals' clash,
Jarr'd but not drown'd by the loud brattling; her [born whiteness
Waved arms, more dazzling with their own
Than the steel her hand held, which she caught up [made
From a dead soldier's grasp—all these things
Her seem unto the troops a prophetess
Of victory, or Victory herself,
Come down to hail us hers.
Sal. [*aside*]. This is too much.
Again the love-fit's on him, and all's lost,
Unless we turn his thoughts.

[*Aloud.*] But pray thee, sire,
Think of your wound—you said even now
'twas painful. [of it.
Sar. That's true, too; but I must not think
Sal. I have look'd to all things needful,
and will now
Receive reports of progress made in such
Orders as I had given, and then return
To hear your further pleasure.
Sar. Be it so.
Sal. [*in retiring*]. Myrrha!
Myr. Prince!
Sal. You have shown a soul to-night,
Which, were he not my sister's lord—But
now—
I have no time: thou lovest the king?
Myr. I love.
Sardanapalus.
Sal. But wouldst have him king still?
Myr. I would not have him less than what
he should be. [yours, and all
Sal. Well, then, to have him king, and
He should, or should not be; to have him *live*,
Let him not sink back into luxury.
You have more power upon his spirit than
Wisdom within these walls, or fierce rebellion
Raging without: look well that he relapse not.
Myr. There needed not the voice of Sale-
To urge me on to this: I will not fail. [menes
All that a woman's weakness can—
Sal. Is power
Omnipotent o'er such a heart as his:
Exert it wisely. [*Exit* Salemenes.
Sar. Myrrha! what, at whispers
With my stern brother? I shall soon be jeal-
ous.
Myr. [*smiling*]. You have cause, sire; for
on the earth there breathes not
A man more worthy of a woman's love—
A soldier's trust—a subject's reverence—
A king's esteem—the whole world's admira-
tion! [must not
Sar. Praise him, but not so warmly. I
Hear those sweet lips grow eloquent in aught
That throws me into shade; yet you speak
truth. [look'd to.
Myr. And now retire to have your wound
Pray lean on me.
Sar. Yes, love! but not from pain.
[*Exeunt omnes.*

ACT IV.

Scene I.—Sardanapalus *discovered sleeping upon a Couch, and occasionally disturbed in his slumbers, with* Myrrha *watching.*

Myr. [*sola, gazing*]. I have stolen upon
his rest, if rest it be, [him?
Which thus convulses slumber: shall I wake
No, he seems calmer. Oh, thou God of Quiet!
Whose reign is o'er seal'd eyelids and soft
dreams,
Or deep, deep sleep, so as to be unfathom'd,
Look like thy brother, Death,—so still,—so
stirless—
For then we are happiest, as it may be, we
Are happiest of all within the realm
Of thy stern, silent, and unawakening twin.
Again he moves—again the play of pain
Shoots o'er his features, as the sudden gust
Crisps the reluctant lake that lay so calm
Beneath the mountain shadow; or the blast
Ruffles the autumn leaves, that drooping cling
Faintly and motionless to their loved boughs.
I must awake him—yet not yet; who knows
From what I rouse him? It seems pain; but if
I quicken him to heavier pain? The fever
Of this tumultuous night, the grief too of
His wound, though slight, may cause all this,
and shake
Me more to see than him to suffer. No:
Let Nature use her own maternal means,—
And I await to second, not disturb her.
Sar. [*awakening.*] Not so—although ye
multiplied the stars,
And gave them to me as a realm to share
From you and with you! I would not so
purchase
The empire of eternity. Hence—hence—
Old hunter of the earliest brutes! and ye
Who hunted fellow-creatures as if brutes!
Once bloody mortals—and now bloodier idols,
If your priests lie not! And thou, ghastly
beldame!
Dripping with dusky gore, and trampling on
The carcasses of Inde away! away!
Where am I? Where the spectres? Where—
No—that
Is no false phantom: I should know it midst
All that the dead dare gloomily raise up
From their black gulf to daunt the living.
Myrrha! [the drops
Myr. Alas! thou art pale, and on thy brow
Gather like night dew. My beloved, hush—
Calm thee. Thy speech seems of another
world,
And thou art lord of this. Be of good cheer;
All will go well.
Sar. Thy *hand*—so—'tis thy hand;
'Tis flesh; grasp—clasp—yet closer, till I feel
Myself that which I was.
Myr. At least know me
For what I am and ever must be—thine.
Sar. I know it now. I know this life again.
Ah, Myrrha! I have been where we shall be.
Myr. My lord! [are lords,
Sar. I've been i' the grave—where worms
And kings are—but I did not deem it so;
I thought 'twas nothing.
Myr. So it is; except
That which may never be.
Sar. Oh, Myrrha, if
Sleep shows such things, what may not death
disclose? [life
Myr. I know no evil death can show, which
Has not already shown to those who live
Embodied longest. If there be indeed
A shore where mind survives 'twill be as mind,
All unincorporate: or if there flits
A shadow of this cumbrous clog of clay,
Which stalks, methinks, between our souls
and heaven,

And fetters us to earth—at least the phantom:
Whate'er it have to fear, will not fear death.
Sar. I fear it not; but I have felt—have
A legion of the dead. [seen—
Myr. And so have I.
The dust we tread upon was once alive,
And wretched. But proceed: what hast thou seen?
Speak it, 'twill lighten thy dimm'd mind.
Sar. Methought—
Myr. Yet pause, thou art tired—in pain—exhausted; all [seek
Which can impair both strength and spirit: Rather to sleep again.
Sar. Not now—I would not
Dream; though I know it now to be a dream
What I have dreamt:—and canst thou bear to hear it? [or death,
Myr. I can bear all things, dreams of life
Which I participate with you in semblance Or full reality.
Sar. And this look'd real,
I tell you: after that these eyes were open,
I saw them in their flight—for then they fled.
Myr. Say on.
Sar. I saw, that is, I dream'd myself
Here—here—even where we are, guests as we were,
Myself a host that deem'd himself but guest,
Willing to equal all in social freedom;
But, on my right hand and my left, instead
Of thee and Zames, and our custom'd meeting,
Was ranged on my left hand a haughty, dark
And deadly face; I could not recognize it,
Yet I had seen it, though I knew not where:
The features were a giant's, and the eye
Was still, yet lighted; his long locks curl'd down
On his vast bust, whence a huge quiver rose
With shaft-heads feather'd from the eagle wing, [hair.
That peep'd up bristling through his serpent
I invited him to fill the cup which stood
Between us, but he answer'd not—I fill'd it:
He took it not, but stared upon me, till
I trembled at the fix'd glare of his eye:
I frown'd upon him as a king should frown—
He frown'd not in his turn, but look'd upon me [more,
With the same aspect, which appall'd me because it chang'd not; and I turn'd for refuge
To milder guests, and sought them on the
Where thou wert wont to be. But— [right,
[*He pauses.*
Myr. What instead?
Sar. In thy own chair—thy own place in the banquet—
I sought thy sweet face in the circle—but
Instead—a gray-hair'd, wither'd, bloody-eyed,
And bloody-handed, ghastly, ghostly thing,
Female in garb, and crown'd upon the brow,
Furrow'd with years, yet sneering with the passion
Of vengeance, leering too with that of lust,
Sate:—my veins curdled.
Myr. Is this all?
Sar. Upon
Her right hand—her lank, bird-like right hand—stood
A goblet, bubbling o'er with blood; and on
Her left another filled with—what I saw not,
But turn'd from it and her. But all along
The table sate a range of crowned wretches,
Of various aspects, but of one expression.
Myr. And felt you not this a mere vision?
Sar. No;
It was so palpable, I could have touch'd them.
I turn'd from one face to another, in
The hope to find at least one which I knew
Ere I saw theirs: but no—all turn'd upon me
And stared, but neither ate nor drank, but stared
Till I grew stone, as they seemed half to be,
Yet breathing stone, for I felt life in them,
And life in me: there was a horrid kind
Of sympathy between us, as if they
Had lost a part of death to come to me,
And I the half of life to sit by them.
We were in an existence all apart
From heaven or earth—And rather let me see
Death all than such a being!
Myr. And the end?
Sar. At last I sate, marble, as they, when rose [me—
The hunter and the crone; and smiling on
Yes, the enlarged but noble aspect of
The hunter smiled upon me—I should say
His lips, for his eyes moved not—and the woman's
Thin lips relax'd to something like a smile,
Both rose, and the crown'd figures on each hand
Rose also, as if aping their chief shades—
Mere mimics even in death—but I sate still;
A desperate courage crept through every limb,
And at the last I fear'd them not, but laugh'd
Full in their phantom faces. But then—then
The hunter laid his hand on mine: I took it,
And grasp'd it—but it melted from my own;
While he too vanish'd, and left nothing but
The memory of a hero, for he look'd so.
Myr. And was: the ancestors of heroes, too,
And thine no less.
Sar. Ah, Myrrha, but the woman,
The female who remain'd, she flew upon me,
And burnt my lips up with her noisome kisses;
And, flinging down the goblets on each hand,
Methought their poisons flow'd around us, till
Each form'd a hideous river. Still she clung:
The other phantoms, like a row of statues,
Stood dull as in our temples, but she still
Embrac'd me, while I shrunk from her, as if,
In lieu of her remote descendant, I
Had been the son who slew her for her incest.
Then—then—a chaos of all loathsome things
Throng'd thick and shapeless: I was dead, yet feeling— [worms,
Buried, and raised again—consumed by
Purged by the flames, and wither'd in the air!
I can fix nothing further of my thoughts,
Save that I long'd for thee, and sought for thee,

In all these agonies, and woke and found thee.
Myr. So thou shalt find me ever at thy side,
Here and hereafter, if the last may be.
But thing not of these things the mere crea-
Of late events, acting upon a frame [tions
Unused to toil, yet overwrought by toil
Such as might try the sternest.
Sar. I am better.
Now that I see thee once more, what was seen
Seems nothing.

Enter SALEMENES.

Sal. Is the king so soon awake?
Sar. Yes, brother, and I would I had not
For all the predecessors of our line [slept;
Rose up, methought, to drag me down to them.
My father was amongst them, too; but he
I know not why, kept from me, leaving me
Between the hunter-founder of our race,
And her, the homicide and husband-killer,
Whom you call glorious.
Sal. So I term you also,
Now you have shown a spirit like to hers.
By daybreak I propose that we set forth,
And charge once more the rebel crew, who still
Keep gathering head, repulsed, but not quite
Sar. How wears the night? [quell'd.
Sal. There yet remain some hours
Of darkness: use them for your further rest.
Sar. No, not to-night, if 'tis not gone: me-
I pass'd hours in that vision. [thought
Myr. Scarcely one;
I watch'd by you: it was a heavy hour,
But an hour only.
Sar. Let us then hold council;
To-morrow we set forth.
Sal. But ere that time,
I had a grace to seek.
Sar. 'Tis granted.
Sal. Hear it
Ere you reply too readily; and 'tis
For *your* ear only.
Myr. Prince, I take my leave.
[*Exit* MYRRHA.
Sal. That slave deserves her freedom.
Sar. Freedom only!
That slave deserves to share a throne.
Sal. Your patience—
'Tis not yet vacant, and 'tis of its partner
I come to speak with you.
Sar. How! of the queen?
Sal. Even so. I judged it fitting for their safety [children
That, ere the dawn, she sets forth with her
For Paphlagonia, where our kinsman Cotta
Governs; and there at all events secure
My nephews and your sons their lives, and with them
Their just pretensions to the crown in case—
Sar. I perish—as is probable: well thought—
Let them set forth with a sure escort.
Sal. That
Is all provided, and the galley ready
To drop down the Euphrates: but ere they
Depart, will you not see—
Sar. My sons? It ma-
Unman my heart, and the poor boys will weep
And what can I reply to comfort them,
Save with some hollow hopes and ill-wor-
You know I cannot feign. [smiles
Sal. But you can feel
At least, I trust so; in a word, the queen
Requests to see you ere you part—forever.
Sar. Unto what end? what purpose? I will grant [ing
Aught—all that she can ask—but such a me
Sal. You know, or ought to know, enou of women,
Since you have studied them so steadily,
That what they ask in aught that touches
The heart, is dearer to their feelings or
Their fancy than the whole external world.
I think as you do of my sister's wish;
But 'twas her wish—she is my sister—you
Her husband—will you grant it?
Sar. 'Twill be useless:
But let her come.
Sal. I go. [*Exit* SALEMENES.
Sar. We have lived asunder
Too long to meet again—and *now* to meet!
Have I not cares enow, and pangs enow,
To bear alone, that we must mingle sorrows,
Who have ceased to mingle love?

Re-enter SALEMENES *and* ZARINA.

Sal. My sister! Courage:
Shame not our blood with trembling, but remember [ent, sire.
From whence we sprung. The queen is pres-
Zar. I pray thee, brother, leave me.
Sal. Since you ask it.
[*Exit* SALEMENES.
Zar. Alone with him! How many a year has pass'd, [met,
Though we are still so young, since we have
Which I have worn in widowhood of heart.
He loved me not: yet he seems little changed—
Changed to me only—would the change were mutual! [word,
He speaks not—scarce regards me—not a
Nor look—yet he *was* soft of voice and aspect,
Indifferent, not austere. My lord!
Sar. Zarina!
Zar. No, *not* Zarina—do not say Zarina.
That tone—that word—annihilate long years,
And things which make them longer.
Sar. 'Tis too late [proach—
To think of these past dreams. Let's not re-
That is, reproach me not—for the last time—
Zar. And *first*. I ne'er reproach'd you.
Sar. 'Tis most true;
And that reproof comes heavier on my heart
Than—But our hearts are not in our own
Zar. Nor hands; but I gave both. [power.
Sar. Your brother said
It was your will to see me ere you went
From Nineveh with—[*he hesitates*].
Zar. Our children: it is true.
I wish'd to thank you that you have not divided
My heart from all that's left it now to love—

hose who are yours and mine, who look like
you,
nd look upon me as you look'd upon me
nce—But they have not changed.
Sar. Nor ever will.
fain would have them dutiful.
Zar. I cherish
hose infants, not alone from the blind love
a fond mother, but as a fond woman.
y are now the only tie between us.
Sar. Deem not
e not done you justice: rather make them
himble thine own line than their own sire.
ast them with you—to you: fit them for
*S*krone, or, if that be denied—You have
re his night's tumults? [heard
Zar. I had half forgotten,
d could have welcomed any grief save
yours,
hich gave me to behold your face again.
Sar. The throne—I say it not in fear—
but 'tis
peril; they perhaps may never mount it;
t let them not for this lose sight of it.
will dare all things to bequeath it to them;
t if I fail, then they must win it back
avely—and, won, wear it wisely, not as I
ave wasted down my royalty.
Zar. They ne'er
hall know from me of aught but what may
eir father's memory. [honor
Sar. Rather let them hear
e truth from you than from a trampling
world.
they be in adversity, they'll learn [princes,
o soon the scorn of crowds for crownless
nd find that all their father's sins are theirs.
y boys!—I could have borne it were I child-
less.
Zar. Oh! do not say so—do not poison all
y peace left, by unwishing that thou wert
father. If thou conquerest, they shall
reign,
nd honor him who saved the realm for them,
little cared for as his own; and if—
Sar. 'Tis lost, all earth will cry out, thank
your father!
nd they will swell the echo with a curse.
Zar. That they shall never do; but rather
honor
he name of him, who, dying like a king,
his last hours did more for his own memory
han many monarchs in a length of days,
hich date the flight of time, but make no
annals. [close;
Sar. Our annals draw perchance unto their
nt at the least, whate'er the past, the end
hall be like their beginnings—memorable.
Zar. Yet be not rash—be careful of your
ive but for those who love. [life,
Sar. And who are they?
slave who loves from passion—I'll not say
mbition—she has seen thrones shake, and
loves;
few friends who have revell'd till we are
s one, for they are nothing if I fall;
A brother I have injured—children whom
I have neglected, and a spouse—
Zar. Who loves.
Sar. And pardons?
Zar. I have never thought of this,
And cannot pardon till I have condemn'd.
Sar. My wife!
Zar. Now blessings on thee for that word!
I never thought to hear it more—from thee.
Sar. Oh! thou wilt hear it from my sub-
jects. Yes!—
These slaves whom I have nurtured, pamper'd,
fed, [till
And swoln with peace, and gorged with plenty,
They reign themselves—all monarchs in their
mansions—
Now swarm forth in rebellion, and demand
His death, who made their lives a jubilee;
While the few upon whom I have no claim
Are faithful! This is true, yet monstrous.
Zar. 'Tis
Perhaps too natural; for benefits
Turn poison in bad minds.
Sar. And good ones make
Good out of evil. Happier than the bee,
Which hives not but from wholesome flowers.
Zar. Then reap
The honey, nor injure whence 'tis derived.
Be satisfied—you are not all abandon'd.
Sar. My life insures me that. How long,
bethink you,
Were not I yet a king, should I be mortal;
That is, where mortals *are*, not where they
must be? [is,
Zar. I know not. But yet live for my—that
Your children's sake!
Sar. My gentle, wrong'd Zarina!
I am the very slave of circumstance
And impulse—borne away with every breath!
Misplaced upon the throne—misplaced in life;
I know not what I could have been, but feel
I am not what I should be—let it end.
But take this with thee: if I was not form'd
To prize a love like thine, a mind like thine,
Nor dote even on thy beauty—as I've doted
On lesser charms, for no cause save that such
Devotion was a duty, and I hated
All that look'd like a chain for me or others
(This even rebellion must avouch); yet hear
These words, perhaps among my last—that
none
E'er valued more thy virtues, though he knew
To profit by them—as the miner lights [not
Upon a vein of virgin ore, discovering [it,
That which avails him nothing: he hath found
But 'tis not his—but some superior's, who
Placed him to dig, but not divide the wealth
Which sparkles at his feet; nor dare he lift
Nor poise it, but must grovel on, upturning
The sullen earth.
Zar. Oh! if thou hast at length
Discover'd that my love is worth esteem,
I ask no more—but let us hence together,
And *I*—let me say *we*—shall yet be happy.
Assyria is not all the earth—we'll find
A world out of our own—and be more bless'd

Than I have ever been, or thou, with all
An empire to indulge thee.

Enter SALEMENES.

Sal. I must part ye—
The moments, which must not be lost, are passing. [out
Zar. Inhuman brother, wilt thou thus weigh
Instants so high and blest?
Sal. Blest!
Zar. He hath been
So gentle with me, that I cannot think
Of quitting.
Sal. So—this feminine farewell
Ends as such partings end, in *no* departure.
I thought as much, and yielded against all
My better bodings. But it must not be.
Zar. Not be?
Sal. Remain and perish—
Zar. With my husband—
Sal. And children.
Zar. Alas!
Sal. Hear me, sister, like *My* sister:—all's prepared to make your safety
Certain, and of the boys too, our last hopes;
'Tis not a single question of mere feeling,
Though that were much—but 'tis a point of state:
The rebels would do more to seize upon
The offspring of their sovereign, and so crush—
Zar. Ah! do not name it.
Sal. Well, then, mark me: when
They are safe beyond the Median's grasp, the rebels
Have miss'd their chief aim—the extinction of
The line of Nimrod. Though the present king
Fall, his sons live for victory and vengeance.
Zar. But could I not remain, alone?
Sal. What! leave
Your children, with two parents and yet orphans—
In a strange land—so young, so distant?
Zar. No—
My heart will break.
Sal. Now you know all—decide.
Sar. Zarina, he hath spoken well, and we
Must yield awhile to this necessity.
Remaining here, you may lose all; departing,
You save the better part of what is left,
To both of us, and to such loyal hearts
As yet beat in these kingdoms.
Sal. The time presses.
Sar. Go, then. If e'er we meet again, perI may be worthier of you—and, if not, [haps
Remember that my faults, though not atoned
Are *ended*. Yet, I dread thy nature will [for,
Grieve more about the blight'd name and ashes
Which once were mightiest in Assyria—than—
But I grow womanish again, and must not;
I must learn sternness now. My sins have all
Been of the softer order——*hide* thy tears—
I do not bid thee *not* to shed them—'twere
Easier to stop Euphrates at its source
Than one tear of a true and tender heart—
But let me not behold them: they unman me
Here when I had remann'd myself. My
Lead her away. [brother,
Zar. Oh, God! I never shall
Behold him more!
Sal. [*striving to conduct her.*] Nay, sister, I *must* be obey'd. [hold me.
Zar. I must remain—away! you shall not
What, shall he die alone?—*I* live alone?
Sal. He shall *not die alone;* but lonely you
Have lived for years.
Sar. That's false! I knew *he* lived,
And lived upon his image—let me go!
Sal. [*conducting her off the stage.*] Nay, then,
I must use some fraternal force,
Which you will pardon.
Sar. Never. Help me! Oh!
Sardanapalus, wilt thou thus behold me
Torn from thee!
Sal. Nay—then all is lost again,
If that this moment is not gain'd.
Sar. My brain turns—
My eyes fail—where is he? [*She faints.*
Sar. [*advancing.*] No—set her down;
She's dead—and you have slain her.
Sal. 'Tis the mere
Faintness of o'erwrought passion: in the air
She will recover. Pray, keep back.—[*Aside.*]
Avail myself of this sole moment to [I must
Bear her to where her children are embark'd,
I' the royal galley on the river.
[SALEMENES *bears her off.*
Sar. [*solus.*] This, too—
And this too must I suffer—I, who never
Inflicted purposely on human hearts
A voluntary pang! But that is false—
She loved me, and I loved her.—Fatal passion!
Why dost thou not expire *at once* in hearts
Which thou hast lighted up at once? Zarina!
I must pay dearly for the desolation
Now brought unto thee. Had I never loved
But thee I should have been an unopposed
Monarch of honoring nations. To what gulfs
A single deviation from the track
Of human duties leads even those who claim
The homage of mankind as their born due,
And find it, till they forfeit it themselves!

Enter MYRRHA.

Sar. *You* here! Who call'd you?
Myr. No one—but I heard
Far off a voice of wail and lamentation,
And thought—
Sar. It forms no portion of your duties
To enter here till sought for.
Myr. Though I might,
Perhaps, recall some softer words of yours
(Although they *too were chiding*), which re-
Because I ever dreaded to intrude; [proved
Resisting my own wish and your injunction
To heed no time nor presence, but approach
Uncall'd for:—I retire. [you
Sar. Yet stay—being here.
I pray you pardon me: events have sour'd me
Till I wax peevish—heed it not: I shall
Soon be myself again,

Myr. I wait with patience,
What I shall see with pleasure.
Sar. Scarce a moment
Before your entrance in this hall, Zarina,
Queen of Assyria, departed hence.
Myr. Ah!
Sar. Wherefore do you start?
Myr. Did I do so?
Sar. 'Twas well you enter'd by another portal, [her!
Else you had met. That pang at least is spared
Myr. I know to feel for her.
Sar. That is too much,
And beyond nature—'tis nor mutual
Nor possible. You cannot pity her,
Nor she aught but—
Myr. Despise the favorite slave?
Not more than I have ever scorn'd myself.
Sar. Scorn'd! what, to be the envy of your sex,
And lord it o'er the heart of the world's lord?
Myr. Were you the lord of twice ten thousand worlds—
As you are like to lose the one you sway'd—
I did abase myself as much in being [ant—
Your paramour, as though you were a peasNay, more, if that the peasant were a Greek.
Sar. You talk it well—
Myr. And truly.
Sar. In the hour
Of man's adversity all things grow daring
Against the falling; but as I am not
Quite fall'n, nor now disposed to bear reproaches,
Perhaps because I merit them too often, [us.
Let us then part while peace is still between
Myr. Part!
Sar. Have not all past human beings parted,
And must not all the present one day part?
Myr. Why? [look'd to,
Sar. For your safety, which I will have
With a strong escort to your native land;
And such gifts, as, if you had not been all
A queen, shall make your dowry worth a king-
Myr. I pray you talk not thus. [dom.
Sar. The queen is gone:
You need not shame to follow. I would fall
Alone—I seek no partners but in pleasure.
Myr. And I no pleasure but in parting not.
You shall not force me from you.
Sar. Think well of it—
It soon may be too late.
Myr. So let it be;
For then you cannot separate me from you. [it.
Sar. And will not; but I thought you wish'd
Myr. I?
Sar. You spoke of your abasement.
Myr. And I feel it
Deeply—more deeply than all things but love.
Sar. Then fly from it.
Myr. 'Twill not recall the past—
'Twill not restore my honor, nor my heart.
No—here I stand or fall. If that you conquer,
I live to joy in your great triumph: should [it.
Your lot be different, I'll not weep, but share
You did not doubt me a few hours ago.
Sar. Your courage never—nor your love till now;
And none could make me doubt it save your-
Those words— [self.
Myr. Were words. I pray you, let the proofs
Be in the past acts you were pleased to praise
This very night, and in my further bearing,
Beside, wherever you are borne by fate. [cause,
Sar. I am content: and, trusting in my
Think we may yet be victors and return
To peace—the only victory I covet.
To me war is no glory—conquest no [right
Renown. To be forced thus to uphold my
Sits heavier on my heart than all the wrongs
These men would bow me down with. Never, never
Can I forget this night, even should I live
To add it to the memory of others,
I thought to have made mine inoffensive rule
An era of sweet peace 'midst bloody annals,
A green spot amidst desert centuries, [smile,
On which the future would turn back and
And cultivate, or sigh when it could not
Recall Sardanapalus' golden reign.
I thought to have made my realm a paradise,
And every moon an epoch of new pleasures.
I took the rabble's shouts for love—the breath
Of friends for truth—the lips of women for
My only guerdon—so they are, my Myrrha:
[*He kisses her.*
Kiss me. Now let them take my realm and
They shall have both, but never thee! [life!
Myr. No, never!
Man may despoil his brother man of all
That's great or glittering—kingdoms fall,—
hosts yield,— [and more
Friends fail,—slaves fly,—and all betray,—
Than all, the most indebted—but a heart
That loves without self-love! 'Tis here—now prove it.

Enter SALEMENES.

Sal. I sought you—How! *she* here again?
Sar. Return not
Now to reproof: methinks your aspect speaks
Of higher matter than a woman's presence.
Sal. The only woman whom it much imports me
At such a moment now is safe in absence—
The queen's embark'd.
Sar. And well? say that much.
Sal. Yes.
Her transient weakness has pass'd o'er; at [least
It settled into tearless silence: her
Pale face and glittering eye, after a glance
Upon her sleeping children, were still fix'd
Upon the palace towers as the swift galley
Stole down the hurrying stream beneath the
But she said nothing. [starlight;
Sar. Would I felt no more
Than she has said!
Sal. 'Tis now too late to feel!
Your feelings cannot cancel a sole pang:
To change them, my advices bring sure tidings

That the rebellious Medes and Chaldees, mar-
By their two leaders, are already up [shall'd
In arms again; and, serrying their ranks,
Prepare to attack: they have apparently
Been join'd by other satraps.
Sar. What! more rebels?
Let us be first, then.
Sal. That were hardly prudent
Now, though it was our first intention. If
By noon to-morrow we are join'd by those
I've sent for by sure messengers, we shall be
In strength enough to venture an attack,
Ay, and pursuit too; but, till then, my voice
Is to await the onset.
Sar. I detest
That waiting; though it seems so safe to fight
Behind high walls, and hurl down foes into
Deep fosses, or behold them sprawl on spikes
Strew'd to receive them, still I like it not—
My soul seems lukewarm; but when I set on
them, [have
Though they were piled on mountains, I would
A pluck at them, or perish in hot blood!—
Let me then charge.
Sal You talk like a young soldier.
Sar. I am no soldier, but a man: speak not
Of soldiership, I loathe the word, and those
Who pride themselves upon it; but direct me
Where I may pour upon them.
Sal. You must spare
To expose your life too hastily: 'tis not
Like mine or any other subject's breath;
The whole war turns upon it—with it; this
Alone creates it, kindles, and may quench
Prolong it—end it. [it—
Sar. Then let us end both!
'Twere better thus, perhaps, than prolong
I'm sick on one, perchance of both. [either;
[*A trumpet sounds without.*
Sal. Hark!
Sar. Let us
Reply, not listen.
Sal. And your wound?
Sar. 'Tis bound—
'Tis heal'd—I had forgotten it. Away!
A leech's lancet would have scratch'd me
deeper;
The slave that gave it might be well ashamed
To have struck so weakly.
Sal. Now, may none this hour
Strike with a better aim!
Sar. Ay, if we conquer;
But if not, they will only leave to me
A task they might have spared their king.
Upon them! [*Trumpet sounds again.*
Sal. I am with you.
Sar. Ho, my arms! again, my arms!
[*Exeunt.*

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*The same Hall in the Palace.*

MYRRHA *and* BALEA.

Myr. [*at a window.*] The day at last has
broken. What a night
Hath usher'd it! how beautiful in heaven!
Though varied with a transitory storm,
More beautiful in that variety! [hope,
How hideous upon earth! where peace and
And love and revel, in an hour were trampled
By human passions to a human chaos,
Not yet resolved to separate elements—
'Tis warring still! And can the sun so rise,
So bright, so rolling back the clouds into
Vapors more lovely than the unclouded sky,
With golden pinnacles, and snowy mountains,
And billows purpler than the ocean's, making
In heaven a glorious mockery of the earth,
So like we almost deem it permanent;
So fleeting we can scarcely call it aught
Beyond a vision, 'tis so transiently
Scatter'd along the eternal vault: and yet
It dwells upon the soul, and soothes the soul,
And blends itself into the soul, until
Sunrise and sunset form the haunted epoch
Of sorrow and of love; which they who mark
not,
Know not the realms where those twin genii
(Who chasten and who purify our hearts,
So that we would not change their sweet re-
bukes,
For all the boisterous joys that ever shook
The air with clamor) build the palaces
Where their fond votaries repose and breathe
Briefly;—but in that brief cool calm inhale
Enough of heaven to enable them to bear
The rest of common, heavy, human hours,
And dream them through in placid sufferance,
Though seemingly employ'd like all the rest
Of toiling breathers in allotted tasks
Of pain or pleasure, *two* names for *one* feeling,
Which our internal restless agony
Would vary in the sound, although the sense
Escapes our highest efforts to be happy.
Bal. You muse right calmly: and can you so
The sunrise which may be our last? [watch
Myr. It is
Therefore that I so watch it, and reproach
Those eyes, which never may behold it more,
For having look'd upon it oft, too oft,
Without the reverence and the rapture due
To that which keeps all earth from being as
fragile
As I am in this form. Come, look upon it,
The Chald 's god, which, when I gaze upon,
I grow almost a convert to your Baal. [earth
Bal. As now he reigns in heaven, so once on
He sway'd.
Myr. He sways it now far more, then: never
Had earthly monarch half the power and glory
Which centres in a single ray of his.
Bal. Surely he is a god!
Myr. So we Greeks deem too;
And yet I sometimes think that gorgeous orb
Must rather be the abode of gods than one
Of the immortal sovereigns. Now he breaks
Through all the clouds, and fills my eyes with
light
That shuts the world out. I can look no more.
Bal. Hark! heard you not a sound?
Myr. No, 'twas mere fancy;

They battle it beyond the wall, and not
As in late midnight conflict in the very
Chambers: the palace has become a fortress
Since that insidious hour; and here, within
The very centre, girded by vast courts
And regal halls of pyramid proportions,
Which must be carried one by one before
They penetrate to where they then arrived,
We are as much shut in even from the sound
Of peril as of glory.
Bal. But they reach'd
Thus far before.
Myr. Yes, by surprise, and were
Beat back by valor: now at once we have
Courage and vigilance to guard us.
Bal. May they
Prosper!
Myr. That is the prayer of many, and
The dread of more: it is an anxious hour;
I strive to keep it from my thoughts. Alas!
How vainly!
Bal. It is said the king's demeanor
In the late action scarcely more appall'd
The rebels than astonish'd his true subjects.
Myr. 'Tis easy to astonish or appal
The vulgar mass which moulds a horde of
But he did bravely. [slaves;
Bal. Slew he not Beleses?
I heard the soldiers say he struck him down.
Myr. The wretch was overthrown, but
rescued to [him
Triumph, perhaps, o'er one who vanquish'd
In fight, as he had spared him in his peril;
And by that heedless pity risk'd a crown.
Bal. Hark!
Myr. You are right; some steps approach,
but slowly.

Enter SOLDIERS, *bearing in* SALEMENES, *wounded, with a broken javelin in his side; they seat him upon one of the couches which furnish the Apartment.*

Myr. Oh, Jove!
Bal. Then all is over.
Sal. That is false.
Hew down the slave who says so, if a soldier.
Myr. Spare him—he's none: a mere court
butterfly,
That flutters in the pageant of a monarch.
Sal. Let him live on then.
Myr. So wilt thou, I trust.
Sal. I fain would live this hour out, and
the event,
But doubt it. Wherefore did ye bear me here?
Sol. By the king's order. When the javelin
struck you,
You fell and fainted: 'twas his strict command
To bear you to this hall.
Sal. 'Twas not ill done:
For seeming slain in that cold dizzy trance,
The sight might shake our soldiers—but—'tis
I feel it ebbing! [vain,
Myr. Let me see the wound;
I am not quite skilless: in my native land
'Tis part of our instruction. War being constant,
We are nerved to look on such things.
Sol. Best extract
The javelin.
Myr. Hold! no, no, it cannot be.
Sal. I am sped, then!
Myr. With the blood that fast must follow
The extracted weapon, I do fear thy life.
Sal. And I *not* death. Where was the king
when you [stricken?
Convey'd me from the spot where I was
Sol. Upon the same ground, and encouraging
With voice and gesture the dispirited troops
Who had seen you fall, and falter'd back.
Sal. Whom heard ye
Named next to the command?
Sol. I did not heart
Sal. Fly then, and tell him, 'twas my las. request
That Zames take my post until the junction,
So hoped for, yet delay'd, of Ofratanes,
Satrap of Susa. Leave me here; our troops
Are not so numerous as to spare your absence.
Sol. But, prince—
Sal. Hence, I say! Here's a courtier and
A woman, the best chamber company.
As you would not permit me to expire
Upon the field, I'll have no idle soldiers
About my sick couch. Hence! and do my
bidding. [*Exeunt the* SOLDIERS.
Myr. Gallant and glorious spirit! must the
So soon resign thee? [earth
Sal. Gentle Myrrha, 'tis
The end I would have chosen, had I saved
The monarch or the monarchy by this;
As 'tis, I have not outlived them.
Myr. You wax paler.
Sal. Your hand: this broken weapon but
prolongs
My pangs, without sustaining life enough
To make me useful: I would draw it forth
And my life with it, could I but hear how
The fight goes.

Enter SARDANAPALUS *and* SOLDIERS.

Sar. My best brother!
Sal. And the battle
Is lost?
Sar. [*despondingly*]. You see *me here.*
Sal. I'd rather see you *thus!*
[*He draws out the weapon from the wound, and dies.*
Sar. And *thus* I will be seen; unless the succor,
The last frail reed of our beleaguer'd hopes,
Arrive from Ofratanes.
Myr. Did you not
Receive a token from your dying brother,
Appointing Zames chief?
Sar. I did.
Myr. Where's Zames?
Sar. Dead.
Myr. And Altada?
Sar. Dying.
Myr. Pania? Sfero?
Sar. Pania yet lives: but Sfero's fled or
I am alone. [captive,

Myr. And is all lost?
Sar. Our walls,
Though thinly mann'd, may still hold out against
Their present force, or aught save treachery:
But i' the field—
Myr. I thought 'twas the intent
Of Salemenes not to risk a sally [cors.
Till ye were strengthen'd by the expected suc-
Sar. I overruled him.
Myr. Well, the fault's a brave one.
Sar. But fatal. Oh, my brother! I would give [ment,
These realms, of which thou wert the orna-
The sword and shield, the sole-redeeming honor,
To call back——But I will not weep for thee;
Thou shalt be mourn'd for as thou wouldst be mourn'd. [life
It grieves me most that thou couldst quit this
Believing that I could survive what thou
Hast died for—our long royalty of race.
If I redeem it, I will give thee blood
Of thousands, tears of millions, for atonement
(The tears of all the good are thine already).
If not, we meet again soon,—if the spirit
Within us lives beyond:—thou readest mine,
And dost me justice now. Let me once clasp
That yet warm hand, and fold that throbless heart. [*Embraces the body.*
To this which beats so bitterly. Now bear
The body hence.
Sol. Where?
Sar. To my proper chamber.
Place it beneath my canopy, as though
The king lay there: when this is done we will
Speak further of the rites due to such ashes.
[*Exeunt* SOLDIERS *with the body of* SALEMENES.

Enter PANIA.

Sar. Well, Pania! have you placed the
The orders fix'd on? [guards, and issued
Pan. Sire, I have obey'd. [up?
Sar. And do the soldiers keep their hearts
Pan. Sire?
Sar. I'm answer'd? When a king asks twice, [tion,
And has a question as an answer to his ques-
It is a portent. What! they are dishearten'd?
Pan. The death of Salemenes, and the
Of the exulting rebels on his fall, [shouts
Have made them—
Sar. *Rage*—not droop—it should have been.
We'll find the means to rouse them.
Pan. Such a loss
Might sadden even a victory.
Sar. Alas!
Who can so feel it as I feel? but yet,
Though coop'd within these walls, they are strong, and we [though hosts,
Have those without will break their way
To make their sovereign's dwelling what it
A palace; not a prison, nor a fortress. [was—

Enter an OFFICER, *hastily.*

Sar. Thy face seems ominous. Speak!
Offi. I dare not.
Sar. Dare not?
While millions dare revolt with sword in hand!
That's strange. I pray thee break that royal silence [hear
Which loathes to shock its sovereign; we can
Worse than thou hast to tell.
Pan. Proceed, thou hearest.
Offi. The wall which skirted near the river's brink
Is thrown down by the sudden inundation
Of the Euphrates, which now rolling, swoln
From the enormous mountains where it rises,
By the late rains of that tempestuous region,
O'erfloods its banks, and hath destroy'd the bulwark.
Pan. That's a black augury! it has been said
For ages, "That the city ne'er should yield
To man, until the river grew its foe."
Sar. I can forgive the omen, not the ravage.
How much is swept down of the wall?
Offi. About
Some twenty stadia.*
Sar. And all this is left
Pervious to the assailants?
Offi. For the present
The river's fury must impede the assault;
But when he shrinks into his wonted channel,
And may be cross'd by the accustom'd barks,
The palace is their own.
Sar. That shall be never.
Though men, and gods, and elements, and omens, [them,
Have risen up 'gainst one who ne'er provoked
My father's house shall never be a cave
For wolves to horde and howl in.
Pan. With your sanction,
I will proceed to the spot, and take such mea-
For the assurance of the vacant space [sures
As time and means permit.
Sar. About it straight,
And bring me back, as speedily as full
And fair investigation may permit,
Report of the true state of this irruption
Of waters. [*Exeunt* PANIA *and the* OFFICER.
Myr. Thus the very waves rise up
Against you.
Sar. They are not my subjects, girl,
And may be pardon'd, since they can't be punish'd. [not.
Myr. I joy to see this portent shakes you
Sar. I am past the fear of portents: they can tell me
Nothing I have not told myself since mid-
Despair anticipates such things. [night:
Myr. Despair!
Sar. No, not despair precisely. When we know
All that can come, and how to meet it, our
Resolves, if firm, may merit a more noble
Word than this is to give it utterance. [done
But what are words to us? we have well nigh
With them and all things.
Myr. Save *one deed*—the last

* About two miles and a half.

And greatest to all mortals; crowning act
Of all that was, or is, or is to be—
The only thing common to all mankind,
So different in their births, tongues, sexes, natures, [lects,
Hues, features, climes, times, feelings, intel-
Without one point of union save in this,
To which we tend, for which we're born, and
The labyrinth of mystery, call'd life. [thread
Sar. Our clew being well nigh wound out, let's be cheerful.
They who have nothing more to fear may well
Indulge a smile at that which once appall'd;
As children at discovered bugbears.

Re-enter PANIA.

Pan. 'Tis
As was reported: I have order'd there
A double guard, withdrawing from the wall
Where it was strongest the required addition
To watch the breach occasion'd by the waters.
Sar. You have done your duty faithfully, and as
My worthy Pania! further ties between us
Draw near a close. I pray you take this key:
[*Gives a key.*
It opens to a secret chamber, placed
Behind the couch in my own chamber. (Now
Press'd by a nobler weight than e'er it bore—
Though a long line of sovereigns have lain
Along its golden frame—as bearing for [down
A time what late was Salemenes.) Search
The secret covert to which this will lead you;
'Tis full of treasure; take it for yourself [ye,
And your companions: there's enough to load
Though ye be many. Let the slaves be freed
And all the inmates of the palace, of [too;
Whatever sex, now quit it in an hour.
Thence launch the regal barks, once form'd for pleasure,
And now to serve for safety, and embark.
The river's broad and swoln, and uncommanded
(More potent than a king) by these besiegers.
Fly! and be happy!
Pan. Under your protection!
So you accompany your faithful guard.
Sar. No, Pania! that must not be; get thee
And leave me to my fate. [hence,
Pan. 'Tis the first time
I ever disobey'd: but now—
Sar. So all men
Dare beard me now, and Insolence within
Apes Treason from without. Question no further;
'Tis my command, my last command. Wilt
Oppose it? *thou!* [*thou*
Pan. But yet—not yet.
Sar. Well, then,
Swear that you will obey when I shall give
The signal.
Pan. With a heavy but true heart,
I promise.
Sar. 'Tis enough, now order here
Faggots, pine-nuts, and wither'd leaves, and such [spark;
Things as catch fire and blaze with one sole
Bring cedar, too, and precious drugs and spices,
And mighty planks, to nourish a tall pile,
Bring frankincense and myrrh, too, for it is
For a great sacrifice I build the pyre!
And heap them round yon throne.
Pan. My lord!
Sar. I have said it,
And *you* have *sworn*.
Pan. And could keep my faith
Without a vow. [*Exit* PANIA.
Myr. What mean you?
Sar. You shall know
Anon—what the whole earth shall ne'er forget.

PANIA, *returning with a* HERALD.

Pan. My king, in going forth upon my duty,
This herald has been brought before me,
An audience. [craving
Sar. Let him speak.
Her. The *King* Arbaces—
Sar. What, crown'd already?—but proceed.
Her. Beleses,
The anointed high-priest—
Sar. Of what god or demon?
With new kings rise new altars. But, proceed;
You are sent to prate your master's will, and
Reply to mine. [not
Her. And Satrap Ofratanes—
Sar. Why, *he* is *ours*.
Her. [*showing a ring*]. Be sure that he is now
In the camp of the conquerors; behold
His signet ring.
Sar. 'Tis his. A worthy triad!
Poor Salemenes! thou hast died in time
To see one treachery the less: this man
Was thy true friend and my most trusted subProceed. [ject.
Her. They offer thee thy life, and freedom
Of choice to single out a residence
In any of the further provinces, [son,
Guarded and watch'd, but not confin'd in perWhere thou shalt pass thy days in peace; but
Condition that the three young princes are [on
Given up as hostages.
Sar. [*ironically.*] The generous victors!
Her. I await the answer.
Sar. Answer, slave! How long
Have slaves decided on the doom of kings?
Her. Since they were free.
Sar. Mouthpiece of mutiny!
Thou at least shalt learn the penalty
Of treason, though its proxy only. Pania!
Let his head be thrown from our walls within
The rebels' lines, his carcass down the river.
Away with him!
[PANIA *and the guards seizing him.*
Pan. I never yet obey'd [ent.
Your orders with more pleasure than the present—Hence with him, soldiers! do not soil this hall
Of royalty with treasonable gore;
But him to rest without.
Her. A single word:
My office, king, is sacred.
Sar. And what's *mine?*
That thou shouldst come and dare to ask of me

To lay it down?

Her. I but obey'd my orders
At the same peril, if refused, as now
Incurr'd by my obedience.

Sar. So there are
New monarchs of an hour's growth as despotic
As sovereigns swathed in purple, and en-
From birth to manhood! [throned

Her. My life waits your breath.
Yours(I speak humbly)—but it may be—yours
May also be in danger scarce less imminent:
Would it then suit the last hours of a line
Such as is that of Nimrod, to destroy
A peaceful herald, unarm'd, in his office;
And violate not only all that man
Holds sacred between man and man—but that
More holy tie which links us to the gods?

Sar. He's right—Let him go free—My life's last act
Shall not be one of wrath. Here, fellow, take
[*Gives him a golden cup from a table near.*
This golden goblet let it hold your wine,
And think of *me*; or melt it into ingots,
And think of nothing but their weight and value.

Her. I thank you doubly for my life, and this [precious.
Most gorgeous gift, which renders it more
But must I bear no answer?

Sar. Yes,—I ask
An hour's truce to consider.

Her. But an hour's?

Sar. An hour's: if at the expiration of [me,
That time your masters hear no further from
They are to deem that I reject their terms,
And act befittingly.

Her. I shall not fail
To be a faithful legate of your pleasure.

Sar. And hark! a word more.

Her. I shall not forget it,
Whate'er it be.

Sar. Commend me to Beleses;
And tell him, ere a year expire, I summon
Him hence to meet me.

Her. Where?

Sar. At Babylon.
At least from thence he will depart to meet me.

Her. I shall obey you to the letter.
[*Exit* HERALD.

Sar. Pania!—
Now, my good Pania!—quick—with what I order'd. [charged,

Pan. My lord,—the soldiers are already
And see, they enter.

[SOLDIERS *enter, and form a Pile about the Throne, etc.*

Sar. Higher, my good soldiers,
And thicker yet; and see that the foundation
Be such as will not speedily exhaust
Its own too subtle flame; nor yet be quench'd
With aught officious aid would bring to quell it.
Let the throne form the *core* of it; I would not [able,
Leave that, save fraught with fire unquench-
To the new comers. Frame the whole as if
'Twere to enkindle the strong tower of our
Inveterate enemies. Now it bears an aspect!
How say you, Pania, will this pile suffice
For a king's obsequies?

Pan. Ay, for a kingdom's.
I understand you, now.

Sar. And blame?

Pan. No—
Let me but fire the pile, and share it with you.

Myr. That duty's mine.

Pan. A woman's!

Myr. 'Tis the soldier's
Part to die *for* his sovereign, and why not
The woman's with her lover?

Pan. 'Tis most strange!

Myr. But not so rare, my Pania, as thou think'st it. [pile
In the mean time, live thou.—Farewell! the
Is ready.

Pan. I should shame to leave my sovereign
With but a single female to partake
His death.

Sar. Too many far have heralded
Me to the dust already. Get thee hence:
Enrich thee.

Pan. And live wretched!

Sar. Think upon
Thy vow;—'tis sacred and irrevocable.

Pan. Since it is so, farewell.

Sar. Search well my chamber,
Feel no remorse at bearing off the gold;
Remember, what you leave you leave the slaves [away
Who slew me: and when you have borne
All safe off to your boats, blow one long blast
Upon the trumpet as you quit the palace.
The river's brink is too remote, its stream
Too loud at present to permit the echo
To reach distinctly from its banks. Then fly,—
And as you sail, turn back; but still keep on
Your way along the Euphrates: if you reach
The land of Paphlagonia, where the queen
Is safe with my three sons in Cotta's court,
Say, what you *saw* at parting; and request
That she remember what I *said* at one
Parting more mournful still.

Pan. That royal hand!
Let me then once more press it to my lips;
And these poor soldiers who throng round
Would fain die with you! [you, and

[*The* SOLDIERS *and* PANIA *throng round him, kissing his hand and the hem of his robe.*

Sar. My best! my last friends!
Let's not unmann each other: part at once:
All farewell should be sudden, when forever,
Else they make an eternity of moments,
And clog the last sad sands of life with tears.
Hence, and be happy: trust me I am not
Now to be pitied; or far more for what
Is past than present; for the future, 'tis
In the hands of the deities, if such [well.
There be: I shall know soon. Farewell—fare-
[*Exeunt* PANIA *and* SOLDIERS.

Myr. These men were honest: it is comfort still
That our last looks should be on loving faces,

Sar. And *lovely* ones, my beautiful!—but hear me!
If at this moment—for we now are on [from
The brink—thou feel'st an inward shrinking
This leap through flame into the future, say it:
I shall not love thee less; nay, perhaps more,
For yielding to thy nature; and there's time
Yet for thee to escape hence.
Myr. Shall I light
One of the torches which lie heap'd beneath
The ever-burning lamp that burns without,
Before Baal's shrine in the adjoining hall?
Sar. Do so. Is that thy answer?
Myr. Thou shalt see.
[*Exit* MYRRHA.
Sar. [*solus.*] She's firm. My fathers! whom I will rejoin,
It may be, purified by death from some
Of the gross stains of too material being,
I would not leave your ancient first abode
To the defilement of usurping bondmen:
If I have not kept your inheritance
As ye bequeath'd it, this bright part of it,
Your treasure, your abode, your sacred relics
Of arms and records, monuments, and spoils,
In which *they* would have revell'd, I bear with
To you in that absorbing element, [me
Which most personifies the soul as leaving
The least of matter unconsumed before
Its fiery workings: and the light of this
Most royal of funereal pyres shall be
Not a mere pillar form of cloud and flame,
A beacon in the horizon for a day,
And then a mount of ashes, but a light
To lesson ages, rebel nations, and [many
Voluptuous princes. Time shall quench full
A people's records, and a hero's acts;
Sweep empire after empire, like this first
Of empires, into nothing; but even then
Shall spare this deed of mine, and hold it up
A problem few dare imitate, and none
Despise—but, it may be, avoid the life
Which led to such a consummation.
[MYRRHA *returns with a lighted torch in one hand, and a cup in the other.*
Myr. Lo!
I've lit the lamp which lights us to the stars.
Sar. And the cup?
Myr. 'Tis my country's custom to
Make a libation to the gods.
Sar. And mine
To make libations amongst men. I've not
Forgot the custom; and although alone,
Will drain one draught in memory of many
A joyous banquet past.
[SARDANAPALUS *takes the cup, and after drinking and tinkling the reversed cup, as a drop falls, exclaims—*
And this libation
Is for the excellent Beleses.
Myr. Why
Dwells thy mind rather upon that man's name
Than on his mate's in villainy?
Sar. The one
Is a mere soldier, a mere tool, a kind
Of human sword in a friend's hand; the other
Is a master-mover of his warlike puppet;
But I dismiss them from my mind.—Yet pause,
My Myrrha! dost thou truly follow me,
Freely and fearlessly?
Myr. And dost thou think
A Greek girl dare not do for love, that which
An Indian widow braves for custom?
Sar. Then
We but await the signal.
Myr. It is long
In sounding.
Sar. Now, farewell; one last embrace.
Myr. Embrace, but *not* the last; there is one more. [our ashes.
Sar. True, the commingling fire will mix
Myr. And pure as is my love to thee, shall they [passion,
Purged from the dross of earth, and earthly
Mix pale with thine. A single thought yet
Sar. Say it. [irks me.
Myr. It is that no kind hand will gather
The dust of both into one urn.
Sar. The better:
Rather let them be borne abroad upon
The winds of heaven, and scatter'd into air,
Than be polluted more by human hands
Of slaves and traitors. In this blazing palace,
And its enormous walls of reeking ruin,
We leave a nobler monument than Egypt
Hath piled in her brick mountains o'er dead kings, [piles
Or *kine*, for none know whether those proud
Be for their monarch or their ox-god Apis:
So much for monuments that have forgotten
Their very record!
Myr. Then farewell, thou earth!
And loveliest spot of earth! farewell, Ionia!
Be thou still free and beautiful, and far
Aloof from desolation! my last prayer
Was for thee, my last thoughts, save *one*, were of thee!
Sar. And that?
Myr. Is yours.
[*The trumpet of* PANIA *sounds without.*
Sar. Hark!
Myr. *Now!*
Sar. Adieu, Assyria!
I loved thee well, my own, my fathers' land,
And better as my country than my kingdom.
I sated thee with peace and joys; and this
Is my reward; and now I owe thee nothing—
Not even a grave. [*He mounts the pile.*
Now, Myrrha!
Myr. Art thou ready?
Sar. As the torch in thy grasp.
[MYRRHA *fires the pile.*
Myr. 'Tis fired! I come.
[*As* MYRRHA *springs forward to throw herself into the flames, the Curtain falls.*

THE TWO FOSCARI.

AN HISTORICAL TRAGEDY.

1821.

"The father softens, but the governor's resolved.—CRITIC.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MEN.

FRANCIS FOSCARI, *Doge of Venice.*
JACOPO FOSCARI, *Son of the Doge.*
JAMES LOREDANO, *a Patrician.*
MARCO MEMMO, *a Chief of the Party.*
BARBARIGO, *a Senator.*

Other Senators, The Council of Ten, Guards, Attendants, etc., etc.

WOMEN.

MARINA, *Wife of young* FOSCARI.

SCENE.—*The Ducal Palace, Venice.*

ACT I.

SCENE I.—*A Hall in the Ducal Palace.*

Enter LOREDANO *and* BARBARIGO *meeting.*

Lor. Where is the prisoner?
Bar. Reposing from
The Question.
Lor. The hour's past—fix'd yesterday
For the resumption of his trial.—Let us
Rejoin our colleagues in the council, and
Urge his recall.
Bar. Nay, let him profit by
A few brief minutes for his tortured limbs;
He was o'erwrought by the Question yester-
And may die under it if now repeated. [day,
Lor. Well?
Bar. I yield not to you in love of justice,
Or hate of the ambitious Foscari,
Father and son, and all their noxious race;
But the poor wretch has suffer'd beyond na-
Most stoical endurance. [ture's
Lor. Without owning
His crime?
Bar. Perhaps without committing any.
But he avow'd the letter to the Duke
Of Milan, and his sufferings half atone for
Such weakness.
Lor. We shall see.
Bar. You, Loredano,
Pursue hereditary hate too far.
Lor. How far?
Bar. To extermination.
Lor. When they are
Extinct you may say this.—Let's in to council.
Bar. Yet pause—the number of our col-
leagues is not
Complete yet; two are wanting ere we can
Proceed.
Lor. And the chief judge, the Doge?
Bar. No—he,
With more than Roman fortitude, is ever
First at the board in this unhappy process
Against his last and only son.
Lor. True—true—
His *last*.
Bar. Will nothing move you?
Lor. *Feels he*, think you?
Bar. He shows it not.
Lor. I have mark'd *that*—the wretch!
Bar. But yesterday, I hear, on his return
To the ducal chambers, as he pass'd the
The old man fainted. [threshold
Lor. It begins to work, then.
Bar. The work is half your own.
Lor. And should be *all* mine—
My father and my uncle are no more.
Bar. I have read the epitaph which says
By poison. [they died
Lor. When the Doge declared that he
Should never deem himself a sovereign till
The death of Peter Loredano, both
The brothers sicken'd shortly,—he *is* sover-
Bar. A wretched one. [eign.
Lor. What should they be who make
Orphans?
Bar. But *did* the Doge make you so?
Lor. Yes.
Bar. What solid proofs?
Lor. When princes set themselves
To work in secret, proofs and processes are
Alike made difficult; but I have such
Of the first, as shall make the second needless.
Bar. But you will move by law?
Lor. By all the laws
Which he would leave us.
Bar. They are such in this
Our state as render retribution easier
Than 'mongst remoter nations. Is it true
That you have written in your books of com-
merce
(The wealthy practice of our highest nobles),
"Doge Foscari, my debtor for the deaths
Of Marco and Pietro Loredano,
My sire and uncle"?
Lor. It is written thus.
Bar. And will you leave it unerased?
Lor. Till balanced.
Bar. And how?

[*Two* SENATORS *pass over the stage, as in their way to "the Hall of the Council of Ten."*

Lor. You see the number is complete. Follow me. *Exit* LOREDANO.

Bar. [*solus.*] Follow *thee!* I have follow'd
Thy path of desolation, as the wave [long
Sweeps after that before it, alike whelming
The wreck that creaks to the wild winds, and wretch
Who shrieks within its riven ribs, as gush
The waters through them; but this son and sire
Might move the elements to pause, and yet
Must I on hardily like them—Oh! would
I could as blindly and remorselessly!— [are
Lo, where he comes!—Be still, my heart! they
Thy foes, must be thy victims: wilt thou beat
For those who almost broke thee?

Enter Guards with young FOSCARI *as prisoner, etc.*

Guard. Let him rest.
Signor, take time.

Jac. Fos. I thank thee, friend, I'm feeble;
But thou may'st stand reproved.

Guard. I'll stand the hazard.

Jac. Fos. That's kind:—I meet some pity,
This is the first. [but no mercy.

Guard. And might be the last, did they
Who rule behold us.

Bar. [*advancing to the Guard*]. There is one who does:
Yet fear not; I will neither be thy judge
Nor thy accuser; though the hour is past,
Wait their last summons—I am of "the Ten,"
And waiting for that summons, sanction you
Even by my presence: When the last call sounds,
We'll in together.—Look well to the prisoner!

Jac. Fos. What voice is that?—'Tis Barbarigo's! Ah!
Our house's foe, and one of my few judges.

Bar. To balance such a foe, if such there be,
Thy father sits amongst thy judges.

Jac. Fos. True,
He judges.

Bar. Then deem not the laws too harsh
Which yield so much indulgence to a sire,
As to allow his voice, in such high matter
As the state's safety—

Jac. Fos. And his son's. I'm faint;
Let me approach, I pray you, for a breath
Of air, yon window which o'erlooks the waters.

Enter an OFFICER, *who whispers* BARBARIGO.

Bar. [*to the Guard*]. Let him approach. I must not speak with him [duty
Further than thus: I have transgress'd my
In this brief parley, and must now redeem it
Within the Council Chamber.

[*Exit* BARBARIGO.

[*Guard conducting* JACOPO FOSCARI *to the window.*

Guard. There, sir, 'tis
Open.—How feel you?

Jac. Fos. Like a boy—O Venice!

Guard. And your limbs? [borne me

Jac. Fos. Limbs! how often have they
Bounding o'er yon blue tide, as I have skimm'd
The gondola along in childish race,
And, masqued as a young gondolier, amidst
My gay competitors, noble as I, [strength;
Raced for our pleasure, in the pride of
While the fair populace of crowding beauties,
Plebeian as patrician, cheer'd us on
With dazzling smiles, and wishes audible,
And waving kerchiefs, and applauding hands,
Even to the goal!—How many a time have I
Cloven with arm still lustier, breast more daring, [stroke
The wave all roughen'd; with a swimmer's
Flinging the billows back from my drench'd hair,
And laughing from my lip the audacious brine,
Which kiss'd it like a wine cup, rising o'er
The waves as they arose, and prouder still
The loftier they uplifted me! and oft,
In my wantonness of spirit, plunging down
Into their green and glassy gulfs, and making
My way to shells and sea-weed, all unseen
By those above, till they wax'd fearful; then
Returning with my grasp full of such tokens
As show'd that I had search'd the deep: exulting,
With a far-dashing stroke, and drawing deep
The long-suspended breath, again I spurn'd
The foam which broke around me, and pursu'd
My track like a sea-bird.—I was a boy then.

Guard. Be a man now: there never was
Of manhood's strength. [more need

Jac. For. [*looking from the lattice.*] My beautiful, my own,
My only Venice—*this is breath!* Thy breeze,
Thine Adrian sea-breeze, how it fans my face!
The very winds feel native to my veins,
And cool them into calmness! How unlike
The hot gales of the horrid Cyclades, [and
Which howl'd about my Candiote dungeon,
Made my heart sick!

Guard. I see the color comes
Back to your cheek: Heaven send you strength to bear [on't.
What more may be imposed!—I dread to think

Jac. Fos. They will not banish me again?—No, no,
Let them wring on; I am strong yet.

Guard. Confess,
And the rack will be spared you.

Jac. Fos. I confess'd
Once—twice before: both times they exiled me.

Guard. And the third time will slay you.

Jac. Fos. Let them do so,
So I be buried in my birth-place: better
Be ashes here than aught that lives elsewhere.

Guard. And can you so much love the soil which hates you? [of the soil

Jac. Fos. The soil!—Oh no, it is the seed
Which persecutes me; but my native earth
Will take me as a mother to her arms.
I ask no more than a Venetian grave,
A dungeon, what they will, so it be here!

Enter an OFFICER.

Offi. Bring in the prisoner!

Guard. Signor, you hear the order.

Jac. Fos. Ay, I am used to such a summons: 'tis [lend me
The third time they have tortured me:—then
Thine arm. [*To the Guard.*
Offi. Take mine, sir; 'tis my duty to
Be nearest to your person.
Jac. Fos. You!—you are he
Who yesterday presided o'er my pangs—
Away!—I'll walk alone.
Offi. As you please, signor;
The sentence was not of my signing, but
I dared not disobey the Council when
They—
Jac. Fos. Bade thee stretch me on their horrid engine.
I pray thee touch me not—that is, just now;
The time will come they will renew that order,
But keep off from me till 'tis issued. As
I look upon thy hands my curdling limbs
Quiver with the anticipated wrenching,
And the cold drops strain through my brow, as if—
But onward—I have borne it—I can bear it.—
How looks my father?
Offi. With his wonted aspect.
Jac. Fos. So does the earth, and sky, the blue of Ocean,
The brightness of our city and her domes,
The mirth of her Piazza, even now
Its merry hum of nations pierces here,
Even here, into these chambers of the unknown
Who govern, and the unknown and the unnumber'd [wear
Judged and destroy'd in silence,—all things
The self-same aspect, to my very sire!
Nothing can sympathize with Foscari,
Not even a Foscari.—Sir, I attend you.
[*Exeunt* Jacopo Foscari, Officer, *etc.*

Enter Memmo *and another Senator.*

Mem. He's gone—we are too late:—think you "the Ten"
Will sit for any length of time to-day?
Sen. They say the prisoner is most obdurate,
Persisting in his first avowal; but
More I know not.
Mem. And that is much; the secrets
Of yon terrific chamber are as hidden
From us, the premier nobles of the state,
As from the people.
Sen. Save the wonted rumors,
Which—like the tales of spectres, that are rife
Near ruin'd buildings—never have been proved,
Nor wholly disbelieved: men know as little
Of the state's real acts as of the grave's
Unfathom'd mysteries.
Mem. But with length of time
We gain a step in knowledge, and I look
Forward to be one day of the decemvirs.
Sen. Or Doge?
Mem. Why, no; not if I can avoid it.
Sen. 'Tis the first station of the state, and
Be lawfully desired, and lawfully [may
Attain'd by noble aspirants.
Mem. To such
I leave it; though born noble, my ambition
Is limited: I'd rather be an unit
Of an united and imperial "Ten,"
Than shine a lonely though a gilded cipher.—
Whom have we here? the wife of Foscari!

Enter Marina, *with a female Attendant.*

Mar. What, no one?—I am wrong, there
But they are senators. [still are two;
Mem. Most noble lady,
Command us.
Mar. *I command!*—Alas! my life
Has been one long entreaty, and a vain one.
Mem. I understand thee, but I must not answer. [here save on the rack,
Mar. [*fiercely.*] True—none dare answer
Or question save those— [bethink thee
Mem. [*interrupting her.*] High-born dame!
Where thou now art.
Mar. Where I now am!—It was
My husband's father's palace.
Mem. The Duke's palace!
Mar. And his son's prison!—True, I have not forgot it;
And if there were no other nearer, bitterer
Remembrances, would thank the illustrious Memmo
For pointing out the pleasures of the place.
Mem. Be calm!
Mar. [*looking up towards heaven.*] I am; but oh, thou eternal God!
Canst *thou* continue so, with such a world?
Mem. Thy husband yet may be absolved.
Mar. He is
In heaven. I pray you, signor senator,
Speak not of that; you are a man of office,
So is the Doge; he has a son at stake
Now, at this moment, and I have a husband,
Or had; they are there within, or were at least
An hour since, face to face, as judge and culprit:
Will *he* condemn *him?* [prit:
Mem. I trust not.
Mar. But if
He does not, there are those will sentence
Mem. They can. [both.
Mar. And with them power and will are
In wickedness:—my husband's lost! [one
Mem. Not so;
Justice is judge in Venice.
Mar. If it were so,
There now would be no Venice. But let it
Live on, so the good die not, till the hour
Of nature's summons: but "the Ten's" is quicker,
And we must wait on't. Ah! a voice of wail!
[*A faint cry within.*
Sen. Hark!
Mem. 'Twas a cry of—
Mar. No, no; not my husband's—
Not Foscari's.
Mem. The voice was—
Mar. *Not his:* no.
He shriek! No; that should be his father's
Not his—not his—he'll die in silence. [part,
[*A faint groan again within.*
Mem. What!

Again!
Mar. *His* voice! it seem'd so: I will not
Believe it. Should he shrink, I cannot cease
To love; but—no—no—no—it must have been
A fearful pang, which wrung a groan from
him. [wouldst thou
Sen. And feeling for thy husband's wrongs,
Have him bear more than mortal pain in
silence? [have not
Mar. We all must bear our tortures. I
Left barren the great house of Foscari,
Though they sweep both the Doge and son
from life;
I have endured as much in giving life
To those who will succeed them, as they can
In leaving it; but mine were joyful pangs;
And yet they wrung me till I *could* have
shrick'd,
But did not; for my hope was to bring forth
Heroes, and would not welcome them with
Mem. All's silent now. [tears.
Mar. Perhaps all's over; but
I will not deem it: he hath nerved himself,
And now defies them.

Enter an OFFICER *hastily.*

Mem. How how, friend, what seek you?
Offi. A leech. The prisoner has fainted.
[*Exit* OFFICER.
Mem. Lady,
'Twere better to retire. [so.
Sen. [*offering to assist her.*] I pray thee do
Mar. Off! *I* will tend him.
Mem. You! Remember, lady!
Ingress is given to none within those cham-
Except "the Ten," and their familiars. [bers,
Mar. Well,
I know that none who enter there return
As they have enter'd—many never; but
They shall not balk my entrance.
Mem. Alas! this
Is but to expose yourself to harsh repulse,
And worse suspense.
Mar. Who shall oppose me?
Mem. They
Whose duty 'tis to do so.
Mar. 'Tis *their* duty
To trample on all human feelings, all
Ties which bind man to man, to emulate
The fiends which will one day requite them in
Variety of torturing! Yet I'll pass.
Mem. It is impossible.
Mar. That shall be tried.
Despair defies even despotism: there is
That in my heart would make its way through
hosts
With levell'd spears; and think you a few
jailors [way;
Shall put me from my path? Give me, then,
This is the Doge's palace; I am wife
Of the Duke's son, the *innocent* Duke's son,
And they shall hear this!
Mem. It will only serve
More to exasperate his judges.
Mar. What
Are *judges* who give way to anger? they
Who do so are assassins. Give me way.
[*Exit* MARINA.
Sen. Poor lady!
Mem. 'Tis mere desperation: she
Will not be admitted o'er the threshold.
Sen. And
Even if she be so, cannot save her husband.
But see, the officer returns.
[*The* OFFICER *passes over the stage with another person.*
Mem. I hardly [of pity,
Thought that "the Ten" had even this touch
Or would permit assistance to this sufferer.
Sen. Pity! Is't pity to recall to feeling
The wretch too happy to escape to death
By the compassionate trance, poor nature's
Resource against the tyranny of pain? [last
Mem. I marvel they condemn him not at
once. [him live,
Sen. That's not their policy: they'd have
Because he fears not death! and banish him,
Because all earth, except his native land.
To him is one wide prison, and each breath
Of foreign air he draws seems a slow poison,
Consuming but not killing.
Mem. Circumstance
Confirms his crimes, but he avows them not.
Sen. None, save the Letter, which he says
was written, [edge
Address'd to Milan's duke, in the full knowl-
That it would fall into the senate's hands,
And thus he should be re-convey'd to Venice.
Mem. But as a culprit.
Sen. Yes, but to his country;
And that was all he sought,—so he avouches.
Mem. The accusation of the bribes was
proved. [cide
Sen. Not clearly, and the charge of homi-
Has been annull'd by the death-bed confes-
Of Nicholas Erizzo, who slew the late [sion
Chief of "the Ten."
Mem. Then why not clear him?
Sen. That
They ought to answer; for it is well known
That Almoro Donato, as I said,
Was slain by Erizzo for private vengeance.
Mem. There must be more in this strange
process than [close—
The apparent crimes of the accused dis-
But here come two of "the Ten"; let us re-
tire. [*Exeunt* MEMMO *and* SENATOR.

Enter LOREDANO *and* BARBARIGO.

Bar. [*addressing* LOR.] That were too
much; believe me, 'twas not meet
The trial should go further at this moment.
Lor. And so the Council must break up,
and Justice
Pause in her full career, because a woman
Breaks in on our deliberations?
Bar. No,
That's not the cause; you saw the prisoner's
Lor. And had he not recover'd? [state.
Bar. To relapse
Upon the least renewal.
Lor. 'Twas not tried,

Bar. 'Twas in vain to murmur; the majority
In council were against you.
Lor. Thanks to you, sir,
And the old ducal dotard, who combined
The worthy voices which o'er-ruled my own.
Bar. I am a judge; but must confess that part [tion,
Of our stern duty, which prescribes the Ques-
And bids us sit and see its sharp infliction,
Makes me wish—
Lor. What?
Bar. That *you* would *sometimes* feel,
As I do always.
Lor. Go to, you're a child,
Infirm of feeling as of purpose, blown
About by every breath, shook by a sigh,
And melted by a tear—a precious judge
For Venice! and a worthy statesman to
Be partner in my policy.
Bar. He shed
No tears.
Lor. He cried out twice.
Bar. A saint had done so,
Even with the crown of glory in his eye,
At such inhuman artifice of pain
As was forced on him; but he did not cry
For pity; not a word nor groan escaped him,
And those two shrieks were not in supplication, [prayers,
But wrung from pangs, and followed by no
Lor. He mutter'd many times between his
But inarticulately. [teeth.
Bar. That I heard not;
You stood more near him.
Lor. I did so.
Bar. Methought,
To my surprise, too, you were touch'd with mercy,
And were the first to call out for assistance
When he was failing.
Lor. I believed that swoon
His last.
Bar. And have I not oft heard thee name
His and his father's death your nearest wish?
Lor. If he dies innocent, that is to say,
With his guilt unavow'd, he'll be lamented.
Bar. What, wouldst thou slay his memory?
Lor. Wouldst thou have
His state descend to his children, as it must,
If he die unattainted?
Bar. War with *them* too?
Lor. With all their house, till theirs or mine are nothing.
Bar. And the deep agony of his pale wife,
And the repress'd convulsion of the high
And princely brow of his old father, which
Broke forth in a slight shuddering, though rarely,
Or in some clammy drops, soon wiped away
In stern serenity; these moved you not?
[*Exit* Loredano.
He's silent in his hate, as Foscari [moved me
Was in his suffering; and the poor wretch
More by his silence than a thousand outcries
Could have effected. 'Twas a dreadful sight
When his distracted wife broke through into
The hall of our tribunal, and beheld
What we could scarcely look upon, long used
To such sights. I must think no more of this,
Lest I forget in this compassion for
Our foes, their former injuries, and lose
The hold of vengeance Loredano plans
For him and me; but mine would be content
With lesser retribution than he thirsts for,
And I would mitigate his deeper hatred
To milder thoughts; but for the present, Foscari
Has a short hourly respite, granted at
The instance of the elders of the Council,
Moved doubtless by his wife's appearance in
The hall, and his own sufferings.—Lo! they come:
How feeble and forlorn! I cannot bear
To look on them again in this extremity:
I'll hence, and try to soften Loredano.
[*Exit* Barbarigo.

ACT II.

Scene I.—*A Hall in the* Doge's *Palace.*

The Doge *and a* Senator.

Sen. Is it your pleasure to sign the report
Now, or postpone it till to-morrow?
Doge. Now;
I overlook'd it yesterday: it wants
Merely the signature. Give me the pen—
[*The* Doge *sits down and signs the paper.*
There, signor. [got; it is not signed.
Sen. [*looking at the paper.*] You have for-
Doge. Not sign'd? Ah, I perceive my eyes begin
To wax more weak with age. I did not see
That I had dipp'd the pen without effect.
Sen. [*dipping the pen into the ink, and placing the paper before the* Doge.] Your hand, too, shakes, my lord: allow me,
Doge. 'Tis done, I thank you. [thus—
Sen. Thus the act confirm'd
By you and by "the Ten" gives peace to Venice. [be
Doge. 'Tis long since she enjoy'd it: may it
As long ere she resume her arms!
Sen. 'Tis almost
Thirty-four years of nearly ceaseless warfare
With the Turk, or the powers of Italy;
The state had need of some repose.
Doge. No doubt.
I found her Queen of Ocean, and I leave her
Lady of Lombardy; it is a comfort
That I have added to her diadem
The gems of Brescia and Ravenna; Crema
And Bergamo no less are hers; her realm
By land has grown by thus much in my reign,
While her sea-sway has not shrunk.
Sen. 'Tis more true,
And merits all our country's gratitude.
Doge. Perhaps so.
Sen. Which should be made manifest.
Doge. I have not complain'd, sir.
Sen. My good lord, forgive me,

Doge. For what?
Sen. My heart bleeds for you.
Doge. For me, signor?
Sen. And for your—
Doge. Stop!
Sen. It must have way, my lord:
I have too many duties towards you
And all your house, for past and present
Not to feel deeply for your son. [kindness,
Doge. Was this
In your commission?
Sen. What, my lord?
Doge. This prattle
Of things you know not: but the treaty's
Return with it to them who sent it. [signed;
Sen. I
Obey. I had in charge, too, from the Council,
That you would fix an hour for their reunion.
Doge. Say, when they will—now, even at this moment,
If it so please them: I am the state's servant.
Sen. They would accord some time for your repose. [shall cause
Doge. I have no repose, that is, none which
The loss of an hour's time unto the state.
Let them meet when they will, I shall be found
Where I should be, and *what* I have been ever.
[*Exeunt* SENATOR. *The* DOGE *remains in silence.*

Enter an ATTENDANT.

Att. Prince!
Doge. Say on.
Att. The illustrious Lady Foscari
Requests an audience.
Doge. Bid her enter. Poor Marina!
[*Exit* ATTENDANT. *The* DOGE *remains in silence as before.*

Enter MARINA.

Mar. I have ventured, father, on
Your privacy.
Doge. I have none from you, my child.
Command my time, when not commanded by the state.
Mar. I wish'd to speak to you of *him.*
Doge. Your husband?
Mar. And your son.
Doge. Proceed, my daughter!
Mar. I had obtain'd permission from "the Ten"
To attend my husband for a limited number
Of hours.
Doge. You had so.
Mar. 'Tis revoked.
Doge. By whom?
Mar. "The Ten."—When we had reach'd "the Bridge of Sighs,"
Which I prepared to pass with Foscari,
The gloomy guardian of that passage first
Demurr'd: a messenger was sent back to "The Ten";—but as the court no longer sate,
And no permission had been given in writing,
I was thrust back, with the assurance that
Until that high tribunal re-assembled
The dungeon walls must still divide us.
Doge. True,
The form has been omitted in the haste
With which the court adjourn'd; and till it
'Tis dubious. [meets,
Mar. Till it meets! and when it meets,
They'll torture him again; and he and I
Must purchase by renewal of the rack
The interview of husband and of wife,
The holiest tie beneath the heavens!—Oh God!
Dost thou see this?
Doge. Child—child—
Mar. [*abruptly.*] Call *me* not "child!"
You soon will have no children—you deserve none—
You, who can talk thus calmly of a son
In circumstances which would call forth tears
Of blood from Spartans! Though these did not weep
Their boys who died in battle, is it written
That they beheld them perish piecemeal, nor
Stretch'd forth a hand to save them?
Doge. You behold me:
I cannot weep—I would I could; but if
Each white hair on this head were a young life,
This ducal cap the diadem of earth,
This ducal ring with which I wed the waves
A talisman to still them—I'd give all
For him.
Mar. With less he surely might be saved.
Doge. That answer only shows you know not Venice. [self,
Alas! how should you? she knows not her-
In all her mystery. Hear me—they who aim
At Foscari, aim no less at his father;
The sire's destruction would not save the son;
They work by different means to the same end,
And that is—but they have not conquer'd yet.
Mar. But they have crush'd.
Doge. Nor crush'd as yet—I live.
Mar. And your son,—how long will he live?
Doge. I trust,
For all that yet is pass'd, as many years
And happier than his father. The rash boy,
With womanish impatience to return,
Hath ruin'd all by that detected letter:
A high crime, which I neither can deny
Nor palliate, as parent or as Duke:
Had he but borne a little, little longer
His Candiote exile, I had hopes——he has
He must return. [quench'd them—
Mar. To exile?
Doge. I have said it.
Mar. And can I not go with him?
Doge. You well know
This prayer of yours was twice denied before
By the assembled "Ten," and hardly now
Will be accorded to a third request,
Since aggravated errors on the part
Of your lord renders them still more austere.
Mar. Austere? Atrocious! The old human fiends, [strange
With one foot in the grave, with dim eyes,
To tears save drops of dotage, with long white
And scanty hairs, and shaking hands, and heads

As palsied as their hearts are hard, they coun-
Cabal, and put men's lives out, as if life [sel,
Were no more than the feelings long extin-
In their accursed bosoms. [guish'd
Doge. You know not—
Mar. I do—I do—and so should you, me-
thinks,
That these are demons: could it be else that
Men, who have been of women born and
suckled— [given
Who have loved, or talk'd at least of love—have
Their hands in sacred vows—have danced
their babes [above them—
Upon their knees, perhaps have mourn'd
In pain, in peril, or in death—who are,
Or were at least in seeming, human, could
Do as they have done by yours, and you your-
You, who abet them? [self—
Doge. I forgive this, for
You know not what you say.
Mar. *You* know it well,
And feel it nothing.
Doge. I have borne so much,
That words have ceased to shake me.
Mar. Oh, no doubt!
You have seen your son's blood flow, and your
flesh shook not;
And after that, what are a woman's words?
Nor more than woman's tears, that they should
shake you. [I tell thee,
Doge. Woman, this clamorous grief of thine,
Is no more in the balance weigh'd with that
Which—but I pity thee, my poor Marina!
Mar. Pity my husband, or I cast it from me;
Pity thy son! *Thou* pity!—'tis a word
Strange to thy heart—how came it on thy lips?
Doge. I must bear these reproaches, though
Couldst thou but read— [they wrong me.
Mar. 'Tis not upon thy brow,
Nor in thine eyes, nor in thine acts—where
then
Should I behold this sympathy? or shall?
Doge. [*pointing downwards.*] There.
Mar. In the earth?
Doge. To which I am tending: when
It lies upon this heart, far lightlier, though
Loaded with marble, than the thoughts which
Now, you will know me better. [press it
Mar. Are you, then,
Indeed, thus to be pitied?
Doge. Pitied? None
Shall ever use that base word, with which men
Cloak their soul's hoarded triumph, as a fit
one [be,
To mingle with my name; that name shall
As far as *I* have borne it, what it was
When I received it.
Mar. But for the poor children
Of him thou canst not, or thou wilt not save
You were the last to bear it.
Doge. Would it were so!
Better for him he never had been born;
Better for me.—I have seen our house dis-
honor'd. [heart,
Mar. That's false! A truer, nobler, trustier
More loving, or more loyal, never beat
Within a human breast. I would not change
My exiled, persecuted, mangled husband,
Oppress'd but not disgraced, crushed, over-
whelm'd,
Alive, or dead, for prince or paladin
In story or in fable, with a world [honor'd!
To back his suit. Dishonor'd!—*he* dis-
I tell thee, Doge, 'tis Venice is dishonor'd!
His name shall be her foulest, worst reproach,
For what he suffers, not for what he did.
'Tis ye who are all traitors, tyrant!—ye!
Did you but love your country like this victim
Who totters back in chains to tortures, and
Submits to all things rather than to exile,
You'd fling yourselves before him, and implore
His grace for your enormous guilt.
Doge. He was
Indeed all you have said. I better bore
The deaths of the two sons Heaven took from
Than Jacopo's disgrace. [me
Mar. That word again?
Doge. Has he not been condemn'd?
Mar. Is none but guilt so?
Doge. Time may restore his memory—I
would hope so.
He was my pride, my—but 'tis useless now—
I am not given to tears, but wept for joy
When he was born; those drops were ominous.
Mar. I say he's innocent! And were he not
so,
Is our own blood and kin to shrink from us
In fatal moments?
Doge. I shrank not from him:
But I have other duties than a father's;
The state would not dispense me from those
duties:
Twice I demanded it, but was refused:
They must then be fulfill'd.

Enter an ATTENDANT.

Att. A message from
"The Ten."
Doge. Who bears it?
Att. Noble Loredano.
Doge. He!—but admit him.
[*Exit* ATTENDANT.
Mar. Must I then retire?
Doge. Perhaps it is not requisite, if this
Concerns your husband, and if not—Well,
signor,
Your pleasure? [*To* LOREDANO *entering.*
Lor. I bear that of "the Ten."
Doge. They
Have chosen well their envoy.
Lor. 'Tis *their* choice
Which leads me here.
Doge. It does their wisdom honor,
And no less to their courtesy.—Proceed.
Lor. We have decided.
Doge. We?
Lor. "The Ten" in council.
Doge. What! have they met again, and met
Apprising me? [without
Lor. They wish'd to spare your feelings,
No less than age.
Doge. That's new—when spared they either?

I thank them, notwithstanding.
Lor. You know well
That they have power to act at their discretion,
With or without the presence of the Doge.
Doge. 'Tis some years since I learn'd this, long before [ment.
I became Doge, or dream'd of such advance-
You need not school me, signor; I sate in
That council when you were a young patrician. [heard him and
Lor. True, in my father's time; I have
The admiral, his brother, say as much.
Your highness may remember them; they both
Died suddenly.
Doge And if they did so, better
So die than live on lingeringly in pain.
Lor. No doubt; yet most men like to live
Doge. And did not they? [their days out.
Lor. The grave knows best; they died,
As I said, suddenly.
Doge. Is that so strange,
That you repeat the word emphatically?
Lor. So far from strange, that never was there death
In my mind half so natural as theirs.
Think *you* not so?
Doge. What should I think of mortals?
Lor. That they have mortal foes.
Doge. I understand you:
Your sires were mine, and you are heir in all things.
Lor. You best know if I should be so.
Doge. I do.
Your fathers were my foes, and I have heard
Foul rumors were abroad; I have also read
Their epitaph, attributing their deaths
To poison. 'Tis perhaps as true as most
Inscriptions upon tombs, and yet no less
A fable.
Lor. Who dares say so?
Doge. I!—'Tis true
Your fathers were mine enemies, as bitter
As their sons e'er can be, and I no less
Was theirs; but I was *openly* their foe;
I never work'd by plot in council, nor
Cabal in commonwealth, nor secret means
Of practice against life by steel or drug.
The proof is, your existence.
Lor. I fear not.
Doge. You have no cause, being what I am; but were I [ere now
That you would have me thought, you long
Were past the sense of fear. Hate on; I care not.
Lor. I never yet knew that a noble's life
In Venice had to dread a Doge's frown,
That is, by open means.
Doge. But I, good signor,
Am, or at least *was*, more than a mere duke,
In blood, in mind, in means; and that they know
Who dreaded to elect me, and have since
Striven all they dare to weigh me down; be sure,
Before or since that period, had I held you
At so much price as to require your absence,
A word of mine had set such spirits to work
As would have made you nothing. But in all things
I have observed the strictest reverence;
Not for the laws alone, for those *you* have
(I do not speak of *you* but as a single [strain'd
Voice of the many) somewhat beyond what
I could enforce, or my authority,
Were I disposed to brawl; but, as I said,
I have observed with veneration, like
A priest's for the high altar, even unto
The sacrifice of my own blood and quiet,
Safety, and all save honor, the decrees,
The health, the pride, and welfare of the state.
And now, sir, do your business.
Lor. 'Tis decreed,
That, without further repetition of
The Question, or continuance of the trial, [is
Which only tends to show how stubborn guilt
("The Ten," dispensing with the stricter law
Which still prescribes the Question till a full
Confession, and the prisoner partly having
Avow'd his crime in not denying that
The letter to the Duke of Milan's his),
James Foscari return to banishment,
And sail in the same galley which convey'd him.
Mar. Thank God! At least they will not drag him more
Before that horrible tribunal. Would he
But think so, to my mind the happiest doom,
Not he alone, but all who dwell here, could
Desire, were to escape from such a land.
Doge. That is not a Venetian thought, my daughter. [his exile?
Mar. No, 'twas too human. May I share
Lor. Of this the "Ten" said nothing.
Mar. So I thought!
That were too human also. But it was not
Inhibited?
Lor. It was not named.
Mar. [*To the* Doge]. Then, father,
Surely you can obtain or grant me thus much:
[*To* Loredano.
And you, sir, not oppose my prayer to be
Permitted to accompany my husband?
Doge. I will endeavor.
Mar. And you, signor?
Lor. Lady!
'Tis not for me to anticipate the pleasure
Of the tribunal.
Mar. Pleasure! what a word
To use for the decrees of—
Doge. Daughter, know you
In what a presence you pronounce these
Mar. A prince's and his subject's. [things?
Lor. Subject!
Mar. Oh!
It galls you:—well, you are his equal, as
You think; but that you are not, nor would be,
Were he a peasant:—well, then, you're a prince,
A princely noble; and what then am I?
Lor. The offspring of a noble house.
Mar. And wedded
To one as noble. What, or whose, then, is
The presence that should silence my free thoughts?

Lor. The presence of your husband's judges.
Doge. And
The deference due even to the lightest word
That falls from those who rule in Venice.
Mar. Keep
Those maxims for your mass of scared mechanics, [slaves,
Your merchants, your Dalmatian and Greek
Your tributaries, your dumb citizens,
And mask'd nobility, your sbirri, and
Your spies, your galley and your other slaves,
To whom your midnight carryings off and drownings,
Your dungeons next to palace roofs, or under
The water's level; your mysterious meetings,
And unknown dooms, and sudden executions,
Your "Bridge of Sighs," your strangling chamber, and
Your torturing instruments, have made ye seem
The beings of another and worse world!
Keep such for them; I fear ye not; I know ye;
Have known and proved your worst, in the infernal
Process of my poor husband! Treat me as
Ye treated him:—you did so, in so dealing
With him. Then what have I to fear *from*
Even if I were of fearful nature, which [you,
I trust I am not?
Doge. You hear, she speaks wildly.
Mar. Not wisely, yet not wildly.
Lor. Lady! words
Utter'd within these walls I bear no further
Than to the threshold, saving such as pass
Between the Duke and me on the state's service.
Doge! have you aught in answer? [vice.
Doge. Something from
The Doge; it may be also from a parent.
Lor. My mission *here* is to the *Doge*.
Doge. Then say
The Doge will choose his own ambassador,
Or state in person what is meet; and for
The father—
Lor. I remember *mine*.—Farewell!
I kiss the hands of the illustrious lady,
And bow me to the Duke. [*Exit* Loredano.
Mar. Are you content?
Doge. I am what you behold.
Mar. And that's a mystery.
Doge. All things are so to mortals; who can read them
Save He who made? or, if they can, the few
And gifted spirits, who have studied long
That loathsome volume—man, and pored upon [and brain,
Those black and bloody leaves, his heart
But learn a magic, which recoils upon
The adept who pursues it; all the sins
We find in others, nature made our own;
All our advantages are those of fortune;
Birth, wealth, health, beauty, are her accidents,
And when we cry out against Fate, 'twere well
We should remember Fortune can take nought
Save what she *gave*—the rest was nakedness,
And lusts, and appetites, and vanities,
The universal heritage, to battle
With as we may, and least in humblest stations,
Where hunger swallows all in one low want,
And the original ordinance, that man
Must sweat for his poor pittance, keeps all passions
Aloof, save fear of famine! All is low, [slaves
And false, and hollow—clay from first to last,
The prince's urn no less than potter's vessel.
Our fame is in men's breath, our lives upon
Less than their breath; our durance upon [days,
Our days on seasons; our whole being on [slaves,
Something which is not *us!*—So, we are
The greatest as the meanest—nothing rests
Upon our will; the will itself no less
Depends upon a straw than on a storm;
And when we think we lead, we are most led,
And still towards death, a thing which comes as much
Without our act or choice as birth, so that
Methinks we must have sinn'd in some old world,
And *this* is hell: the best is, that it is not
Eternal.
Mar. These are things we cannot judge
On earth, [other,
Doge. And how then shall we judge each
Who are all earth, and I, who am call'd upon
To judge my son? I have administer'd
My country faithfully—victoriously—
I dare them to the proof, the *chart* of what
She was and is: my reign has doubled realms;
And, in reward, the gratitude of Venice
Has left, or is about to leave, *me* single.
Mar. And Foscari? I do not think of such things,
So I be left with him. [
Doge. You shall be so;
Thus much they cannot well deny.
Mar. And if
They should, I will fly with him.
Doge. That can ne'er be.
And whither would you fly?
Mar. I know not, reck not—
To Syria, Egypt, to the Ottoman—
Anywhere, where we might respire unfetter'd,
And live nor girt by spies, nor liable
To edicts of inquisitors of state.
Doge. What, wouldst thou have a renegade
And turn him into traitor? [for husband,
Mar. He is none!
The country is the traitress, which thrusts forth
Her best and bravest from her. Tyranny
Is far the worst of treasons. Dost thou deem
None rebels except subjects? The prince who
Neglects or violates his trust is more
A brigand than the robber-chief.
Doge. I cannot
Charge me with such a breach of faith.
Mar. No; thou
Observ'st, obey'st such laws as make old
A code of mercy by comparison, [Draco's
Doge. I found the law; I did not make it. Were I
A subject, still I might find parts and portions
Fit for amendment; but as prince, I never

Would change, for the sake of my house, the
Left by our fathers. [charter
Mar. Did they make it for
The ruin of their children?
Doge. Under such laws, Venice
Has risen to what she is—a state to rival
In deeds, and days, and sway, and, let me add,
In glory (for we have had Roman spirits
Amongst us), all that history has bequeath'd
Of Rome and Carthage in their best times,
The people sway'd by senates. [when
Mar. Rather say,
Groan'd under the stern oligarchs.
Doge. Perhaps so;
But yet subdued the world: in such a state
An individual, be he richest of
Such rank as is permitted, or the meanest,
Without a name, is alike nothing, when
The policy, irrevocably tending
To one great end, must be maintain'd in vigor.
Mar. This means that you are more a Doge than father.
Doge. It means I am more citizen than
If we had not for many centuries [either.
Had thousands of such citizens, and shall,
I trust, have still such, Venice were no city.
Mar. Accursed be the city where the laws
Would stifle nature's!
Doge. Had I as many sons
As I have years, I would have given them all,
Not without feeling, but I would have given them
To the state's service, to fulfill her wishes
On the flood, in the field, or, if it must be,
As it, alas! has been, to ostracism,
Exile, or chains, or whatsoever worse
She might decree.
Mar. And this is patriotism?
To me it seems the worst barbarity.
Let me seek out my husband: the sage "Ten,"
With all its jealousy, will hardly war
So far with a weak woman as deny me
A moment's access to his dungeon.
Doge. I'll
So far take on myself, as order that
You may be admitted.
Mar. And what shall I say
To Foscari from his father?
Doge. That he obey
The laws. [him
Mar. And nothing more? Will you not see
Ere he depart! It may be the last time.
Doge. The last!—my boy!—the last time I shall see
My last of children! Tell him I will come.
[*Exeunt.*

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*The Prison of* JACOPO FOSCARI.

Jac. Fos. [*solus*]. No light save yon faint gleam which shows me walls
Which never echo'd but to sorrow's sounds,
The sigh of long imprisonment, the step
Of feet on which the iron clank'd, the groan
Of death, the imprecation of despair!
And yet for this I have return'd to Venice,
With some faint hope, 'tis true, that time, which wears
The marble down, had worn away the hate
Of men's hearts; but I knew them not, and here
Must I consume my own, which never beat
For Venice but with such a yearning as
The dove has for her distant nest, when wheel-[ing
High in the air on her return to greet
Her callow brood. What letters are these which [*Approaching the wall.*
Are scrawl'd along the inexorable wall?
Will the gleam let me trace them? Ah! the
Of my sad predecessors in this place, [names
The dates of their despair, the brief words of
A grief too great for many. This stone page
Hold like an epitaph their history;
And the poor captive's tale is graven on
His dungeon barrier, like the lover's record
Upon the bark of some tall tree, which bears
His own and his beloved's name. Alas!
I recognize some names familiar to me,
And blighted like to mine, which I will add,
Fittest for such a chronicle as this,
Which only can be read, as writ, by wretches.
[*He engraves his name.*

Enter a Familiar of "the Ten."

Fam. I bring you food.
Jac. Fos. I pray you set it down;
I am past hunger; but my lips are parch'd—
The water!
Fam. There. [am better.
Jac. Fos. [*after drinking.*] I thank you: I
Fam. I am commanded to inform you that
Your further trial is postponed.
Jac. Fos. Till when?
Fam. I know not.—It is also in my orders
That your illustrious lady be admitted.
Jac. Fos. Ah! they relent, then—I had
'Twas time. [ceased to hope it:

Enter MARINA.

Mar. My best beloved!
Jac. Fos. [*embracing her.*] My true wife,
And only friend! What happiness!
Mar. We'll part
No more. [geon?
Jac. Fos. How! wouldst thou share a dun-
Mar. Ay,
The rack, the grave, all—anything with thee,
But the tomb last of all, for there we shall
Be ignorant of each other, yet I will
Share that—all things except new separation;
It is too much to have survived the first.
How dost thou? How are those worn limbs?
Why do I ask? Thy paleness— [Alas!
Jac. Fos. 'Tis the joy
Of seeing thee again so soon, and so
Without expectancy, has sent the blood
Back to my heart, and left my cheeks like
For thou art pale too, my Marina! [thine,
Mar. 'Tis
The gloom of this eternal cell, which never
Knew sunbeam, and the sallow sullen glare

Of the familiar's torch, which seems akin
To darkness more than light, by lending to
The dungeon vapors its bituminous smoke,
Which cloud whate'er we gaze on, even thine eyes— [sparkle!
No, not thine eyes—they sparkle—how they
Jac. Fos. And thine! but I am blinded by the torch. [see here?
Mar. As I had been without it. Couldst thou
Jac. Fos. Nothing at first; but use and time had taught me
Familiarity with what was darkness;
And the gray twilight of such glimmerings as
Glide through the crevices made by the winds
Was kinder to mine eyes than the full sun,
When gorgeously o'ergilding any towers
Save those of Venice: but a moment ere
Thou camest hither I was busy writing.
Mar. What? [corded—next
Jac. Fos. My name: look, 'tis there re-
The name of him who here preceded me,
If dungeon dates say true.
Mar. And what of him?
Jac. Fos. These walls are silent of men's ends; they only [walls
Seem to hint shrewdly of them. Such stern
Were never piled on high save o'er the dead,
Or those who soon must be so.—*What of him?*
Thou askest.—What of me? may soon be ask'd, [surmise—
With the like answer—doubt and dreadful
Unless thou tell'st my tale.
Mar. *I speak* of thee!
Jac. Fos. And wherefore not? All then shall speak of me;
The tyranny of silence is not lasting, [groans
And, though events be hidden, just men's
Will burst all cerement, even a living grave's!
I do not *doubt* my memory, but my life;
And neither do I fear.
Mar. Thy life is safe.
Jac. Fos. And liberty?
Mar. The mind should make its own.
Jac. Fos. That has a noble sound; but 'tis a sound,
A music most impressive, but too transient;
The mind is much, but is not all. The mind
Hath nerved me to endure the risk of death,
And torture positive, far worse than death
(If death be a deep sleep), without a groan,
Or with a cry which rather shamed my judges
Than me; but 'tis not all, for there are things
More woful—such as this small dungeon,
I may breathe many years. [where
Mar. Alas! and this
Small dungeon is all that belongs to thee
Of this wide realm, of which thy sire is prince.
Jac. Fos. That thought would scarcely aid me to endure it.
My doom is common; many are in dungeons,
But none like mine, so near their father's palace; [hope
But then my heart is sometimes high, and
Will stream along those moted rays of light
Peopled with dusty atoms, which afford
Our only day: for, save the gaoler's torch,
And a strange firefly, which was quickly caught
Last night in yon enormous spider's net,
I ne'er saw aught here like a ray. Alas!
I know if mind may bear us up, or no,
For I have such, and shown it before men;
It sinks in solitude: my soul is social.
Mar. I will be with thee.
Jac. Fos. Ah, if it were so!
But *that* they never granted—nor will grant,
And I shall be alone: no men—no books—
Those lying likenesses of lying men.
I ask'd for even those outlines of their kind,
Which they term annals, history, what you will, [were
Which men bequeath as portraits, and they
Refused me,—so these walls have been my study,
More faithful pictures of Venetian story,
With all their blank, or dismal stains, than is
The Hall not far from hence, which bears on high
Hundreds of doges, and their deeds and dates.
Mar. I come to tell the result of their
Last council on thy doom.
Jac. Fos. I know it—look!
[*He points to his limbs, as referring to the Question which he had undergone.*
Mar. No—no—no more of that; even they
From that atrocity. [relent
Jac. Fos. What then?
Mar. That you
Return to Candia.
Jac. Fos. Then my last hope's gone.
I could endure my dungeon, for 'twas Venice;
I could support the torture, there was something
In my native air that buoy'd my spirits up
Like a ship on the ocean toss'd by storms,
But proudly still bestriding the high waves,
And holding on its course; but *there*, afar,
In that accursed isle of slaves and captives,
And unbelievers, like a stranded wreck,
My very soul seemed mouldering in my bosom,
And piecemeal I shall perish, if remanded.
Mar. And *here?* [briefer.
Jac. Fos. At once—by better means, as
What! would they even deny me my sire's
As well as home and heritage? [sepulchre,
Mar. My husband!
I have sued to accompany thee hence,
And not so hopelessly. This love of thine,
For an ungrateful and tyrannic soil
Is passion, and not patriotism; for me,
So I could see thee with a quiet aspect,
And the sweet freedom of the earth and air,
I would not cavil about climes or regions.
This crowd of palaces and prisons is not
A paradise; its first inhabitants
Were wretched exiles.
Jac. Fos. Well I know *how* wretched!
Mar. And yet you see how, from their banishment
Before the Tartar into these salt isles,
Their antique energy of mind, all that

Remain'd of Rome for their inheritance,
Created by degrees an ocean Rome;*
And shall an evil, which so often leads
To good, depress thee thus?

Jac. Fos. Had I gone forth
From my own land, like the old patriarchs, seeking
Another region with their flocks and herds;
Had I been cast out like the Jews from Zion,
Or like our fathers, driven by Attila
From fertile Italy, to barren islets, [try,
I would have given some tears to my late coun-
And many thoughts but afterwards ad-
Myself, with those about me, to create [dress'd
A new home and fresh state; perhaps I could
Have borne this—though I know not.

Mar. Wherefore not?
It was the lot of millions and must be
The fate of myriads more.

Jac. Fos. Ay—we but hear
Of the survivors' toil in their new lands [ber
Their numbers and success; but who can num-
The hearts which broke in silence at that part-
Or after their departure; of that malady†[ing,
Which calls up green and native fields to view,
From the rough deep, with such identity
To the poor exile's fever'd eye, that he
Can scarcely be restrain'd from treading them?
That melody,‡ which out of tones and tunes
Collects such pasture for the longing sorrow
Of the sad mountaineer, when far away
From the snowy canopy of cliffs and clouds,
That he feeds on the sweet, but poisonous thought, [strength,
And dies. You call this *weakness!* It is
I say,—the parent of all honest feeling, [ing.
He who loves not his country, can love noth-

Mar. Obey her, then; 'tis she that puts thee forth. [curse

Jac. Fos. Ay, there it is; 'tis like a mother's
Upon my soul—the mark is set upon me.
The exiles you speak of went forth by nations,
Their hands upheld each other by the way,
Their tents were pitch'd together—I'm alone.

Mar. You shall be so no more—I will go with thee.

Jac. Fos. My best Marina! and our children?

Mar. They,
I fear, by the prevention of the state's
Abhorrent policy (which holds all ties
As threads which may be broken at her pleas-
Will not be suffer'd to proceed with us, [ure),

Jac. Fos. And canst thou leave them?

Mar. Yes. With many a pang.
But—I *can* leave them, children as they are,
To teach you to be less a child. From this
Learn you to sway your feelings, when exacted
By duties paramount; and 'tis our first
On earth to bear.

Jac. Fos. Have I not borne?

Mar. Too much
From tyrannous injustice, and enough
To teach you not to shrink now from a lot,
Which, as compared with what you have un-
Of late, is mercy. [dergone

Jac. Fos. Ah! you never yet
Were far away from Venice, never saw
Her beautiful towers in the receding distance,
While every furrow of the vessel's track [never
Seem'd ploughing deep into your heart; you
Saw day go down upon your native spires
So calmly with its gold and crimson glory,
And after dreaming a disturbed vision [not.
Of them and theirs, awoke and found them

Mar. I will divide this with you. Let us think
Of our departure from this much-loved city
(Since you must *love* it, as it seems), and this
Chamber of state, her gratitude allots you.
Our children will be cared for by the Doge,
And by my uncles: we must sail ere night.

Jac. Fos. That's sudden. Shall I not be-

Mar. You will. [hold my father?

Jac. Fos. Where?

Mar. Here, or in the ducal chamber—
He said not which. I would that you could
Your exile as he bears it. [bear

Jac. Fos. Blame him not.
I sometimes murmur for a moment; but
He could not now act otherwise. A show
Of feeling or compassion on his part
Would have but drawn upon his aged head
Suspicion from "the Ten," and upon mine
Accumulated ills.

Mar. Accumulated!
What pangs are those they have spared you?

Jac. Fos. That of leaving
Venice without beholding him or you,
Which might have been forbidden now, as
Upon my former exile. ['twas

Mar. That is true,
And thus far I am also the state's debtor,
And shall be more so when I see us both
Floating on the free waves—away—away—
Be it to the earth's end, from this abhorr'd,
Unjust, and—

Jac Fos. Curse it not. If I am silent,
Who dares accuse my country?

Mar. Men and angels!
The blood of myriads reeking up to heaven,
The groans of slaves in chains, and men in dungeons, [subjects,
Mothers, and wives, and sons, and sires, and
Held in the bondage of ten bald-heads; and
Though last, not least, *thy silence! Couldst thou* say
Aught in its favor, who would praise like *thee?*

Jac. Fos. Let us address us then, since so it
To our departure. Who comes here? [must be,

Enter LOREDANO, *attended by the Familiars.*

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* In Lady Morgan's fearless and excellent work upon Italy, I perceive the expression of "Rome of the Ocean," applied to Venice. The same phrase occurs in the "Two Foscari." My publisher can vouch for me, that the tragedy was written and sent to England some time before I had seen Lady Morgan's work, which I only received on the 16th of August. I hasten, however, to notice the coincidence, and to yield the originality of the phrase to her who first placed it before the public.

† The Calenture, a mental disease peculiar to sailors in hot climates.

‡ Alluding to the Swiss air, "Ranz des Vaches," and its effects.

Lor. [*to the Familiars.*] Retire,
But leave the torch. [*Exeunt the two Familiars.*
Jac. Fos. Most welcome, noble signor.
I did not deem this poor place could have
Such presence hither. [drawn
Lor. 'Tis not the first time
I have visited these places.
Mar. Nor would be
The last, were all men's merits well rewarded.
Came you here to insult us, or remain
As spy upon us, or as hostage for us?
Lor. Neither are of my office, noble lady!
I am sent hither to your husband, to
Announce "the Ten's" decree.
Mar. That tenderness
Has been anticipated: it is known.
Lor. As how?
Mar. I have inform'd him, not so gently,
Doubtless, as your nice feelings would pre-
scribe, [knew it.
The indulgence of your colleagues: but he
If you come for our thanks, take them, and
hence! [you,
The dungeon gloom is deep enough without
And full of reptiles, not less loathsome, though
Their sting is honester.
Jac. Fos. I pray you, calm you:
What can avail such words?
Mar. To let him know
That he is known.
Lor. Let the fair dame preserve
Her sex's privilege.
Mar. I have some sons, sir,
Will one day thank you better.
Lor. You do well
To nurse them wisely. Foscari—you know
Your sentence, then?
Jac. Fos. Return to Candia?
Lor. True—
For life.
Jac. Fos. Not long.
Lor. I said—for *life*.
Jac. Fos. And I
Repeat—not long.
Lor. A year's imprisonment
In Canea—afterwards the freedom of
The whole isle.
Jac. Fos. Both the same to me: the after
Freedom as is the first imprisonment.
Is't true my wife accompanies me?
Lor. Yes,
If she so wills it.
Mar. Who obtain'd that justice?
Lor. One who wars not with women.
Mar. But oppresses
Men; howsoever, let him have *my* thanks
For the only boon I would have ask'd or taken
From him or such as he is.
Lor. He receives them
As they are offer'd.
Mar. May they thrive with him
So much!—no more.
Jac. Fos. Is this, sir, your whole mission?
Because we have brief time for preparation,
And you perceive your presence doth disquiet
This lady, of a house noble as yours.
Mar. Nobler!
Lor. How nobler?
Mar. As more generous!
We say the "generous steed" to express the
purity
Of his high blood. Thus much I've learnt,
although
Venetian (who see few steeds save of bronze),
From those Venetians who have skimm'd the
coasts
Of Egypt and her neighbor Araby:
And why not say as soon the "*generous man*"?
If race be aught, it is in qualities
More than in years; and mine, which is as old
As yours, is better in its product, nay—
Look not so stern—but get you back and pore
Upon your genealogic tree's most green
Of leaves and most mature of fruits, and there
Blush to find ancestors, who would have
blush'd
For such a son—thou cold inveterate hater!
Jac. Fos. Again, Marina!
Mar. Again! *still* Marina.
See you not, he comes here to glut his hate
With a last look upon our misery?
Let him partake it!
Jac. Fos. That were difficult.
Mar. Nothing more easy. He partakes it
Ay, he may veil beneath a marble brow [now—
And sneering lip the pang, but he partakes it.
A few brief words of truth shame the devil's
servants
No less than master; I have probed his soul
A moment, as the eternal fire, ere long, [me!
Will reach it always. See how he shrinks from
With death, and chains, and exile in his hand
To scatter o'er his kind as he thinks fit;
They are his weapons, not his armor, for
I have pierced him to the core of his cold heart.
I care not for his frowns! We can but die,
And he but live, for him the very worst
Of destinies; each day secures him more
His tempter's.
Jac. Fos. This is mere insanity.
Mar. It may be so; and *who* hath made us
Lor. Let her go on: it irks not me. [*mad?*
Mar. That's false!
You came here to enjoy a heartless triumph
Of cold looks upon manifold griefs! You came
To be sued to in vain—to mark our tears,
And hoard our groans—to gaze upon the
wreck [band;
Which you have made a prince's son—my hus-
In short, to trample on the fallen—an office
The hangman shrinks from, as all men from
him! [nor, as
How have you sped? We are wretched, sig-
Your plots could make, and vengeance could
And how *feel you?* [desire us.
Lor. As rocks.
Mar. By thunder blasted.
They feel not, but no less are shiver'd. Come,
Foscari; now let us go, and leave this felon
The sole fit habitant of such a cell,
Which he has peopled often, but ne'er fitly
Till he himself shall brood in it alone.

Enter the Doge.

Jac. Fos. My father! [my son!
Doge. [*embracing him.*] Jacopo! my son—
Jac. Fos. My father still! How long is it since I
Have heard thee name my name—*our* name!
Doge. My boy!
Couldst thou but know—
Jac. Fos. I rarely, sir, have murmur'd.
Doge. I feel too much thou hast not.
Mar. Doge, look there! [*She points to* Loredano.
Doge. I see the man—what mean'st thou?
Mar. Caution!
Lor. Being
The virtue which this noble lady most
May practice, she doth well to recommend it.
Mar. Wretch! 'tis no virtue, but the policy
Of those who fain must deal perforce with [vice:
As such I recommend it, as I would
To one whose foot was on an adder's path.
Doge. Daughter, it is superfluous; I have [long
Known Loredano.
Lor. You may know him better.
Mar. Yes: *worse* he could not.
Jac. Fos. Father, let not these
Our parting hours be lost in listening to
Reproaches, which boot nothing. Is it—is it,
Indeed, our last of meetings?
Doge. You behold
These white hairs!
Jac. Fos. And I feel, besides, that mine
Will never be so white. Embrace me, father!
I loved you ever—never more than now. [ren:
Look to my children—to your last child's child-
Let them be all to you which he was once,
And never be to you what I am now.
May I not seem *them* also?
Mar. No—not *here.*
Jac. Fos. They might behold their parent anywhere. [in
Mar. I would that they beheld their father
A place which would not mingle fear with love,
To freeze their young blood in its natural current. [that
The have fed well, slept soft, and knew not
Their sire was a mere hunted outlaw. Well,
I know his fate may one day be a heritage;
But let it only be their *heritage,* [though
And not their present fee. Their senses,
Alive to love, are yet awake to terror; [wave
And these vile damps, too, and yon *th ck green*
Which floats above the place where we now
A cell so far below the water's level, [stand—
Sending its pestilence through every crevice,
Might strike them; *this is not their* atmosphere,
However you—and you—and most of all,
As worthiest—*you,* sir, noble Loredano!
May breathe it without prejudice.
Jac. Fos. I have not
Reflected upon this, but acquiesce.
I shall depart, then, without meeting them?
Doge. Not so: they shall await you in my chamber.
Jac. Fos. And must I leave them—*all?*
Lor. You must.
Jac. Fos. Not one?
Lor. They are the state's.
Mar. I thought they had been mine.
Lor. They are, in all maternal things.
Mar. That is
In all things painful. If they're sick, they will
Be left to me to tend them: should they die,
To me to bury and to mourn; but if
They live, they'll make you soldiers, senators,
Slaves, exiles—what *you* will; or if they are
Females with portions, brides and *bribes* for nobles! [mothers!
Behold the state's care for its sons and
Lor. The hour approaches, and the wind is fair. [the genial wind
Jac. Fos. How know you that here, where
Ne'er blows in all its blustering freedom?
Lor. 'Twas so
When I came here. The galley floats within
A bow-shot of the "Riva di Schiavoni."
Jac. Fos. Father! I pray you to precede me, and
Prepare my children to behold their father.
Doge. Be firm, my son!
Jac. Fos. I will do my endeavor.
Mar. Farewell! at least to this detested dungeon,
And him to whose good offices you owe
In part your past imprisonment.
Lor. And present
Liberation.
Doge. He speaks truth.
Jac. Fos. No doubt! but 'tis
Exchange of chains for heavier chains I owe him. [them.
He knows this or he had not sought to change
But I reproach not.
Lor. The time narrows, signor.
Jac. Fos. Alas! I little thought so lingeringly
To leave abodes like this: but when I feel
That every step I take, even from this cell,
Is one away from Venice, I look back
Even on these dull damp walls, and—
Doge. Boy, no tears.
Mar. Let them flow on: he wept not on the rack [now.
To shame him, and they cannot shame him
They will relieve his heart—that too kind
And I will find an hour to wipe away [heart—
Those tears, or add my own. I could weep now,
But would not gratify yon wretch so far.
Let us proceed. Doge, lead the way.
Lor. [*to Familiar.*] The torch, there!
Mar. Yes, light us on, as to a funeral pyre,
With Loredano mourning like an heir. [hand.
Doge. My son, you are feeble; take this
Jac. Fos. Alas!
Must youth support itself on age, and I
Who ought to be the prop of yours?
Lor. Take mine.
Mar. Touch it not, Foscari; 'twill sting you. Signor,

Stand off! be sure, that if a grasp of yours
Would raise us from the gulf wherein we are plunged,
No hand of ours would stretch itself to meet it.
Come, Foscari, take the hand the altar gave you;
It could not save, but will support you ever.
[*Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*A Hall in the Ducal Palace.*

Enter LOREDANO *and* BARBARIGO.

Bar. And you have confidence in such a project?
Lor. I have.
Bar. 'Tis hard upon his years.
Lor. Say rather
Kind to relieve him from the cares of state.
Bar. 'Twill break his heart.
Lor. Age has no heart to break.
He has seen his son's half broken, and, except
A start of feeling in his dungeon, never
Swerved.
Bar. In his countenance, I grant you, never;
But I have seen him sometimes in a calm
So desolate, that the most clamorous grief
Had nought to envy him within. Where is he?
Lor. In his own portion of the palace, with
His son, and the whole race of Foscaris.
Bar. Bidding farewell.
Lor. At last. As soon he shall
Bid to his dukedom.
Bar. When embarks the son?
Lor. Forthwith—when this long leave is taken. 'Tis
Time to admonish them again.
Bar. Forbear;
Retrench not from their moments.
Lor. Not I, now
We have higher business for our own. This day
Shall be the last of the old Doge's reign,
As the first of his son's last banishment,
And that is vengeance.
Bar. In my mind, too deep.
Lor. 'Tis moderate—not even life for life, the rule
Denounced of retribution from all time;
They owe me still my father's and my uncle's.
Bar. Did not the Doge deny this strongly?
Lor. Doubtless.
Bar. And did not this shake your suspicion?
Lor. No.
Bar. But if this deposition should take place
By our united influence in the Council,
It must be done with all the deference
Due to his years, his station, and his deeds.
Lor. As much of ceremony as you will,
So that the thing be done. You may, for aught
I care, depute the Council on their knees
(Like Barbarossa to the Pope), to beg him
To have the courtesy to abdicate.
Bar. What if he will not?
Lor. We'll elect another,
And make him null.
Bar. But will the laws uphold us?
Lor. What laws?—"The Ten" are laws; and if they were not,
I will be legislator in this business.
Bar. At your own peril?
Lor. There is none, I tell you,
Our powers are such.
Bar. But he has twice already
Solicited permission to retire,
And twice it was refused.
Lor. The better reason
To grant it the third time.
Bar. Unask'd?
Lor. It shows
The impression of his former instances:
If they were from his heart, he may be thankful:
If not, 'twill punish his hypocrisy.
Come, they are met by this time; let us join them,
And be *thou* fix'd in purpose for this once.
I have prepared such arguments as will not
Fail to move them, and to remove him: since
Their thoughts, their objects, have been sounded, do not pause,
You, with your wonted scruples, teach us
And all will prosper.
Bar. Could I but be certain
This is no prelude to such persecution
Of the sire as has fallen upon the son,
I would support you.
Lor. He is safe, I tell you;
His fourscore years and five may linger on
As long as he can drag them; 'tis his throne
Alone is aim'd at.
Bar. But discarded princes
Are seldom long of life.
Lor. And men of eighty
More seldom still.
Bar. And why not wait these few years?
Lor. Because we have waited long enough, and he
Lived longer than enough. Hence! in to council!
[*Exeunt* LOREDANO *and* BARBARIGO.

Enter MEMMO *and a* SENATOR.

Sen. A summons to "the Ten!" why so?
Mem. "The Ten"
Alone can answer; they are truly wont
To let their thoughts anticipate their purpose
By previous proclamation. We are summon'd—
That is enough.
Sen. For them, but not for us;
I would know why.
Mem. You will know why anon,
If you obey: and, if not, you no less
Will know why you should have obey'd.
Sen. I mean not
To oppose them, *but*—
Mem. In Venice "*but*" 's a traitor.
But me no "*buts*," unless you would pass o'er
The Bridge which few repass.
Sen. I am silent.
Mem. Why
Thus hesitate? "The Ten" have call'd in aid
Of their deliberation five and twenty
Patricians of the senate—you are one,

And I another; and it seems to me
Both honor'd by the choice or chance which leads us
To mingle with a body so august.
Sen. Most true. I say no more.
Mem. As we hope, signor,
And all may honestly (that is, all those
Of noble blood may), one day hope to be
Decemvir, it is surely for the senate's
Chosen delegates a school of wisdom, to
Be thus admitted, though as novices,
To view the mysteries,
Sen. Let us view them: they
No doubt are worth it.
Mem. Being worth our lives
If we divulge them, doubtless they are worth
Something, at least to you or me.
Sen. I sought not
A place within the sanctuary; but being
Chosen, however reluctantly so chosen,
I shall fulfil my office.
Mem. Let us not
Be latest in obeying "the Ten's" summons.
Sen. All are not met, but I am of your
So far—let's in. [thought
Mem. The earliest are most welcome
In earnest councils—we will not be least so.
[*Exeunt.*

Enter the Doge, Jacopo Foscari, *and* Marina.

Jac. Fos. Ah, father! though I must and will
Yet—yet—I pray you to obtain for me [depart,
That I once more return unto my home,
Howe'er remote the period. Let there be
A point of time, as beacon to my heart,
With any penalty annex'd they please,
But let me still return.
Doge. Son Jacopo,
Go and obey our country's will: 'tis not
For us to look beyond.
Jac. Fos. But still I must
Look back. I pray you think of me.
Doge. Alas!
You ever were my dearest offspring when
They were more numerous, nor can be less so
Now you are last; but did the state demand
The exile of the disinterred ashes
Of your three goodly brothers, now in earth,
And their desponding shades came flitting round
To impede the act, I must no less obey
A duty, paramount to every duty.
Mar. My husband! let us on: this but pro-
Our sorrow. [longs
Jac. Fos. But we are not summon'd yet;
The galley's sails are not unfurl'd: who knows?
The wind may change.
Mar. And if it do, it will not
Change *their* hearts, or your lot; the galley's
Will quickly clear the harbor. [oars
Jac. Fos. O ye elements!
Where are your storms?
Mar. In human breasts. Alas!
Will nothing calm you?
Jac. Fos. Never yet did mariner
Put up to patron saint such prayers for prosperous
And pleasant breezes, as I call upon you,
Ye tutelar saints of my own city! which
Ye love not with more holy love than I,
To lash up from the deep the Adrian waves,
And waken Auster, sovereign of the tempest!
Till the sea dash me back on my own shore
A broken corse upon the barren Lido, [skirt
Where I may mingle with the sands which
The land I love, and never shall see more!
Mar. And wish you this with *me* beside you?
Jac. Fos. No—
No—not for thee, too good, too kind! May'st thou
Live long to be a mother to those children
Thy fond fidelity for a time deprives
Of such support! But for myself alone,
May all the winds of heaven howl down the
And tear the vessel, till the mariners, [Gulf,
Appall'd, turn their despairing eyes on me,
As the Phenicians did on Jonah, then
Cast me out from amongst them, as an offering
To appease the waves. The billow which destroys me
Will be more merciful than man, and bear me
Dead, but *still bear* me to a native grave,
From fishers' hands, upon the desolate strand,
Which, of its thousand wrecks, hath ne'er received
One lacerated like the heart which then
Will be.—But wherefore breaks it not? why live I?
Mar. To man thyself, I trust, with time, to master
Such useless passion. Until now thou wert
A sufferer, but not a loud one: why,
What is this to the things thou hast borne in silence—
Imprisonment and actual torture?
Jac. Fos. Double,
Triple, and tenfold torture! But you are right,
It must be borne. Father, your blessing.
Doge. Would
It could avail thee! but no less thou hast it.
Jac. Fos. Forgive——
Doge. What?
Jac. Fos. My poor mother, for my birth,
And me for having lived, and you yourself
(As I forgive you), for the gift of life,
Which you bestow'd upon me as my sire.
Mar. What hast thou done?
Jac. Fos. Nothing. I cannot charge
My memory with much save sorrow: but
I have been so beyond the common lot
Chasten'd and visited, I needs must think
That I was wicked. If it be so, may
What I have undergone here keep me from
A like hereafter!
Mar. Fear not: *that's* reserved
For your oppressors.
Jac. Fos. Let me hope not.
Mar. Hope not?
Jac. Fos. I cannot wish them *all* they have inflicted.

Mar. *All!* the consummate fiends! a thousand-fold [them!
May the worm which ne'er dieth feed upon
Jac Fos. They may repent.
Mar. And if they do, Heaven will not
Accept the tardy penitence of demons.

Enter an OFFICER *and* GUARDS.

Offi. Signor! the boat is at the shore—the
Is rising—we are ready to attend you. [wind
Jac. Fos. And I to be attended. Once more,
Your hand! [father,
Doge. Take it. Alas! how thine own trembles! [shakes, my father.
Jac. Fos. No—you mistake: 'tis yours that
Farewell!
Doge. Farewell! Is there aught else?
Jac. Fos. No—nothing. [*To the* OFFICER. Lend me your arm, good signor.
Offi. You turn pale—
Let me support you—paler—ho! some aid
Some water! [there!
Mar. Ah, he is dying!
Jac. Fos. Now, I'm ready—
My eyes swim strangely—where's the door?
Mar. Away!
Let me support him—my best love! O God!
How faintly beats this heart—this pulse!
Jac. Fos. The light!
Is it the light?—I am faint.
[OFFICER *presents him with water.*
Offi. He will be better,
Perhaps, in the air.
Jac. Fos. I doubt not. Father—wife—
Your hands! [grasp.
Mar. There's death in that damp, clammy
Oh, God!—My Foscari, how fare you?
Jac. Fos. Well! [*He dies.*
Offi. He's gone!
Doge. He's free.
Mar. No—no, he is not dead;
There must be life yet in that heart—he could
Thus leave me. [not
Doge. Daughter!
Mar. Hold thy peace, old man!
I am no daughter now—thou hast no son.
Oh, Foscari!
Offi. We must remove the body.
Mar. Touch it not, dungeon miscreants! your base office [der,
Ends with his life, and goes not beyond mur-
Even by your murderous laws. Leave his re-
To those who know to honor them. [mains
Offi. I must
Inform the signory, and learn their pleasure.
Doge. Inform the signory from *me*, the Doge,
They have no further power upon those ashes;
While he lived, he was theirs, as fits a subject—
Now he is *mine*—my broken-hearted boy!
[*Exit* OFFICER.
Mar. And I must live!
Doge. Your children live, Marina.
Mar. My children! true—they live, and I must live
To bring them up to serve the state, and die
As died their father. Oh! what best of blessings
Were barrenness in Venice! Would my mother
Had been so!
Doge. My unhappy children!
Mar. What!
You feel it then at last—*you!*—Where is now
The stoic of the state!
Doge. [*throwing himself down by the body.*] *Here!*
Mar. Ay, weep on!
I thought you had no tears—you hoarded them
Until they are useless; but weep on! he never
Shall weep more—never, never more.

Enter LOREDANO *and* BARBARIGO.

Lor. What's here?
Mar. Ah! the devil come to insult the dead!
Incarnate Lucifer! 'tis holy ground. [Avaunt!
A martyr's ashes now lie there, which make it
A shrine. Get thee back to thy place of torment!
Bar. Lady, we knew not of this sad event,
But pass'd here merely on our path from coun-
Mar. Pass on. [cil.
Lor. We sought the Doge.
Mar. [*pointing to the* DOGE, *who is still on the ground by his son's body*]. He's busy, look,
About the business *you* provided for him.
Are ye content?
Bar. We will not interrupt
A parent's sorrows.
Mar. No, ye only make them.
Then leave them.
Doge. [*rising*]. Sirs, I am ready.
Bar. No—not now.
Lor. Yet 'twas important.
Doge. If 'twas so, I can
Only repeat—I am ready.
Bar. It shall not be
Just now, though Venice totter'd o'er the deep
Like a frail vessel. I respect your griefs.
Doge. I thank you. If the tidings which you bring
Are evil, you may say them; nothing further
Can touch me more than him thou look'st on there;
If they be good, say on: you need not *fear*
That they can *comfort* me.
Bar. I would they could!
Doge. I spoke not to *you*, but to Loredano. *He* understands me.
Mar. Ah! I thought it would be so.
Doge. What mean you?
Mar. Lo! there is the blood beginning
To flow through the dead lips of Foscari—
The body bleeds in presence of the assassin.
[*To* LOREDANO.
Thou cowardly murderer by law, behold
How death itself bears witness to thy deeds!
Doge. My child! this is a phantasy of grief.
Bear hence the body. [*To his attendants*]. Signors, if it please you,
Within an hour I'll hear you.
[*Exeunt* DOGE, MARINA, *and attendants with the body.* *Manent* LOREDANO *and* BARBARIGO.

Bar. He must not
Be troubled now.
Lor. He said himself that nought
Could give him trouble further.
Bar. These are words;
But grief is lonely, and the breaking in
Upon it barbarous.
Lor. Sorrow preys upon
Its solitude, and nothing more diverts it
From its sad visions of the other world,
Than calling it at moments back to this.
The busy have no time for tears.
Bar. And therefore
You would deprive this old man of all business?
Lor. The thing's decreed. The Giunta and
"the Ten"
Have made it law—who shall oppose that law?
Bar. Humanity!
Lor. Because his son is dead?
Bar. And yet unburied.
Lor. Had we known this when
The act was passing, it might have suspended
Its passage, but impedes it not—once past.
Bar. I'll not consent.
Lor. You have consented to
All that's essential—leave the rest to me.
Bar. Why press his abdication now?
Lor. The feelings
Of private passion may not interrupt
The public benefit; and what the state
Decides to-day must not give way before
To-morrow for a natural accident.
Bar. You have a son.
Lor. I *have*—and *had* a father.
Bar. Still so inexorable?
Lor. Still.
Bar. But let him
Inter his son before we press upon him
This edict.
Lor. Let him call up into life
My sire and uncle—I consent. Men may,
Even aged men, be, or appear to be,
Sires of a hundred sons, but cannot kindle
An atom of their ancestors from earth.
The victims are not equal; he has seen
His sons expire by natural deaths, and I
My sires by violent and mysterious maladies.
I used no poison, bribed no subtle master
Of the destructive art of healing, to
Shorten the path to the eternal cure.
His sons—and he had four—are dead, without
My dabbling in vile drugs.
Bar. And art thou sure
He dealt in such?
Lor. Most sure.
Bar. And yet he seems
All openness.
Lor. And so he seem'd not long
Ago to Carmagnuola.
Bar. The attainted
And foreign traitor?
Lor. Even so: when *he*
After the very night in which "the Ten"
(Join'd with the Doge) decided his destruction,
Met the great Duke at daybreak with a jest,
Demanding whether he should augur him
"The good day or good night?" his Dogeship answer'd,
"That he in truth had pass'd a night of vigil,
In which (he added with a gracious smile),
There often has been question about you." *
'Twas true; the question was the death resolved
Of Carmagnuola, eight months ere he died;
And the old Doge, who knew him doom'd,
smiled on him [beforehand—
With deadly cozenage, eight long months
Eight months of such hypocrisy as is [ola
Learnt but in eighty years. Brave Carmagnu-
Is dead; so is young Foscari and his breth-
I never *smiled* on *them*. [ren—
Bar. Was Carmagnuola
Your friend?
Lor. He was the safeguard of the city.
In early life its foe, but, in his manhood,
Its savior first, then victim.
Bar. Ah! that seems
The penalty of saving cities. He
Whom we now act against not only saved
Our own, but added others to our sway.
Lor. The Romans (and we ape them) gave a
To him who took a city; and then gave [crown
A crown to him who saved a citizen
In battle; the rewards are equal. Now,
If we should measure forth the cities taken
By the Doge Foscari, with citizens
Destroy'd by him, or *through* him, the account
Were fearfully against him, although narrow'd
To private havoc, such as between him
And my dead father.
Bar. Are you then thus fix'd?
Lor. Why, what should change me?
Bar. That which changes me:
But you, I know, are marble to retain
A feud. But when all is accomplish'd, when
The old man is deposed, his name degraded,
His sons all dead, his family depress'd, [sleep?
And you and yours triumphant, shall you
Lor. More soundly.
Bar. That's an error, and you'll find it
Ere you sleep with your fathers.
Lor. They sleep not
In their accelerated graves, nor will
Till Foscari fills his. Each night I see them
Stalk frowning round my couch, and, pointing towards
The ducal palace, marshal me to vengeance.
Bar. Fancy's distemperature! There is no passion
More spectral or fantastical than Hate;
Not even its opposite, Love, so peoples air
With phantoms, as this madness of the heart.

Enter an OFFICER.

Lor. Where go you, sirrah?
Offi. By the ducal order
To forward the preparatory rites
For the late Foscari's interment.
Bar. Their
Vault has been often open'd of late years.

* An historical fact. See DARU, tom. ii.

Lor. 'Twill be full soon, and may be closed forever.
Offi. May I pass on?
Lor. You may.
Bar. How bears the Doge This last calamity?
Offi. With desperate firmness. In presence of another he says little, But I perceive his lips move now and then; And once or twice I heard him, from the adjoining apartment, mutter forth the words—"My son!" Scarce audibly. I must proceed.
[*Exit* Officer.
Bar. This stroke Will move all Venice in his favor.
Lor. Right! We must be speedy: let us call together The delegates appointed to convey The Council's resolution.
Bar. I protest Against it at this moment.
Lor. As you please— I'll take their voices on it ne'ertheless, mine, And see whose most may sway them, yours or
[*Exeunt* Barbarigo *and* Loredano.

ACT V.

Scene I.—*The* Doge's *Apartment.*

The Doge *and* Attendants.

Att. My lord, the deputation is in waiting, But add, that if another hour would better Accord with your will, they will make it theirs.
Doge. To me all hours are alike. Let them approach.
[*Exit* Attendant.
An Officer. Prince! I have done your bidding.
Doge. What command?
Offi. A melancholy one—to call the attendance Of—
Doge. True—true—true—I crave your pardon. Begin to fail in apprehension, and Wax very old—old almost as my years. Till now I fought them off, but they begin To overtake me.

Enter the Deputation, *consisting of six of the* Signory *and the* Chief of the Ten.

Noble men, your pleasure!
Chief of the Ten. In the first place, the Council doth condole With the Doge on his late and private grief.
Doge. No more—no more of that.
Chief of the Ten. Will not the Duke Accept the homage of respect?
Doge. I do Accept it as 'tis given—proceed.
Chief of the Ten. "The Ten," With a selected Giunta from the senate Of twenty-five of the best born patricians, Having deliberated on the state Of the republic, and the o'erwhelming cares Which, at this moment, doubly must oppress Your years, so long devoted to your country, Have judged it fitting, with all reverence, Now to solicit from your wisdom (which Upon reflection must accord in this), The resignation of the ducal ring, Which you have worn so long and venerably: And to prove that they are not ungrateful, nor Cold to your years and services, they add An appanage of twenty hundred golden Ducats, to make retirement not less splendid Than should become a sovereign's retreat.
Doge. Did I hear rightly?
Chief of the Ten. Need I say again?
Doge. No—Have you done? four
Chief of the Ten. I have spoken. Twenty-Hours are accorded you to give an answer.
Doge. I shall not need so many seconds.
Chief of the Ten. We Will now retire.
Doge. Stay! four-and-twenty hours Will alter nothing which I have to say.
Chief of the Ten. Speak!
Doge. When I twice before reiterated My wish to abdicate, it was refused me: And not alone refused, but ye exacted An oath from me that I would never more Renew the instance. I have sworn to die In full exertion of the functions which My country call'd me here to exercise, According to my honor and my conscience— I cannot break *my* oath.
Chief of the Ten. Reduce us not To the alternative of a decree, Instead of your compliance.
Doge. Providence Prolongs my days to prove and chasten me; But ye have no right to reproach my length Of days, since every hour has been the country's. I am ready to lay down my life for her, As I have laid down dearer things than life: But for my dignity—I hold it of The *whole* republic; when the *general* will Is manifest, then you shall all be answer'd.
Chief of the Ten. We grieve for such an answer; but it cannot Avail you aught.
Doge. I can submit to all things, But nothing will advance; no, not a moment. What you decree—decree.
Chief of the Ten. With this, then, must we Return to those who sent us?
Doge. You have heard me.
Chief of the Ten. With all due reverence we retire.
[*Exeunt the* Deputation, *etc.*

Enter an Attendant.

Att. My lord, The noble dame Marina craves an audience.
Doge. My time is hers.

Enter Marina.

Mar. My lord, if I intrude— Perhaps you fain would be alone?
Doge. Alone? Alone, come all the world around me, I Am now and evermore. But we will bear it.
Mar. We will, and for the sake of those Endeavor—Oh, my husband! who are,
Doge. Give it way:

I cannot comfort thee.
Mar. He might have lived,
So form'd for gentle privacy of life,
So loving, so beloved; the native of
Another land, and who so blest and blessing
As my poor Foscari? Nothing was wanting
Unto his happiness and mine save not
To be Venetian.
Doge. Or a prince's son.
Mar. Yes; all things which conduce to other
Imperfect happiness or high ambition, [men's
By some strange destiny, to him proved deadly.
The country and the people whom he loved,
The prince of whom he was the elder born,
And——
Doge. Soon may be a prince no longer.
Mar. How?
Doge. They have taken my son from me, and now aim
At my too long worn diadem and ring.
Let them resume their gewgaws!
Mar. Oh, the tyrants!
In such an hour too!
Doge. 'Tis the fittest time;
An hour ago I should have felt it.
Mar. And
Will you not now resent it?—Oh, for vengeance!
But he, who, had he been enough protected,
Might have repaid protection in this moment,
Cannot assist his father.
Doge. Nor should do so
Against his country, had he a thousand lives
Instead of that——
Mar. They tortured from him. This
May be pure patriotism. I am a woman:
To me my husband and my children were
Country and home. I loved *him*—how I loved him!
I have seen him pass through such an ordeal as
The old martyrs would have shrunk from: he is gone,
And I, who would have given my blood for him,
Have nought to give but tears! But could I compass
The retribution of his wrongs!—Well, well!
I have sons, who shall be men.
Doge. Your grief distracts you.
Mar. I thought I could have borne it, when I saw him
Bow'd down by such oppression; yes, I thought
That I would rather look upon his corse
Than his prolong'd captivity:—I am punish'd
For that thought now. Would I were in his grave!
Doge. I must look on him once more.
Mar. Come with me!
Doge. Is he——
Mar. Our bridal bed is now his bier.
Doge. And he is in his shroud!
Mar. Come, come, old man!
[*Exeunt the* DOGE *and* MARINA.

Enter BARBARIGO *and* LOREDANO.

Bar. [*To an* ATTENDANT.] Where is the Doge?
Att. This instant retired hence,
With the illustrious lady his son's widow.
Lor. Where?
Att. To the chamber where the body lies.
Bar. Let us return, then.
Lor. You forget, you cannot.
We have the implicit order of the Giunta
To await their coming here, and join them in
Their office: they'll be here soon after us.
Bar. And will they press their answer on the Doge? [done promptly.
Lor. 'Twas his own wish that all should be
He answer'd quickly, and must so be answer'd;
His dignity is look'd to, his estate
Cared for—what would he more?
Bar. Die in his robes:
He could not have lived long; but I have done
My best to save his honors, and opposed
This proposition to the last, though vainly.
Why would the general vote compel me hither?
Lor. 'Twas fit that some one of such different thoughts [tongues
From ours should be a witness, lest false
Should whisper that a harsh majority
Dreaded to have its acts beheld by others.
Bar. And not less, I must needs think, for the sake
Of humbling me for my vain opposition.
You are ingenious, Loredano, in
Your modes of vengeance, nay, poetical,
A very Ovid in the art of *hating;*
'Tis thus (although a secondary object,
Yet hate has microscopic eyes), to you
I owe by way of foil to the more zealous,
This undesired association in
Your Giunta's duties.
Lor. How!—*my* Giunta!
Bar. *Yours!*
They speak your language, watch your nod, approve [*yours?*
Your plans, and do your work. Are they not
Lor. You talk unwarily. 'Twere best they
This from you. [hear not
Bar. Oh! they'll hear as much one day
From louder tongues than mine; they have gone beyond
Even their exorbitance of power: and when
This happens in the most contemn'd and abject
States, stung humanity will rise to check it.
Lor. You talk but idly.
Bar. That remains for proof.
Here come our colleagues.

Enter the DEPUTATION *as before.*

Chief of the Ten. Is the Duke aware
We seek his presence?
Att. He shall be inform'd.
[*Exit* ATTENDANT.
Bar. The Duke is with his son.
Chief of the Ten. If it be so,
We will remit him till the rites are over.
Let us return. 'Tis time enough to-morrow.
Lor. [*aside to* BAR.] Now the rich man's hell-fire upon your tongue,
Unquench'd, unquenchable! I'll have it torn
From its vile babbling roots, till you shall utter

Nothing but sobs through blood, for this! Sage
I pray ye be not hasty. [signors,
[*Aloud to the others.*
Bar. But be human!
Lor. See, the Duke comes!
Enter the DOGE.
Doge. I have obey'd your summons.
Chief of the Ten. We come once more to urge our past request.
Doge. And I to answer.
Chief of the Ten. What!
Doge. My only answer.
You have heard it.
Chief of the Ten. Hear *you* then the last
Definitive and absolute! [decree,
Doge. To the point—
To the point! I know of old the forms of office,
And gentle preludes to strong acts.—Go on!
Chief of the Ten. You are no longer Doge; you are released
From your imperial oath as sovereign;
Your ducal robes must be put off; but for
Your services, the state allots the appanage
Already mention'd in our former congress.
Three days are left you to remove from hence,
Under the penalty to see confiscated
All your own private fortune.
Doge. That last clause,
I am proud to say, would not enrich the treasury.
Chief of the Ten. Your answer, Duke!
Lor. Your answer, Francis Foscari!
Doge. If I could have foreseen that my old age
Was prejudicial to the state, the chief
Of the republic never would have shown
Himself so far ungrateful, as to place
His own high dignity before his country;
But this *life* having been so many years
Not useless to that country, I would fain
Have consecrated my last moments to her.
But the decree being render'd, I obey.
Chief of the Ten. If you would have the three days named extended,
We willingly will lengthen them to eight,
As sign of our esteem.
Doge. Not eight hours, signor,
Nor even eight minutes—there's the ducal ring,
[*Taking off his ring and cap.*
And there the ducal diadem. And so
The Adriatic's free to wed another. [quickly.
Chief of the Ten. You go not forth so
Doge. I am old, sir,
And even to move but slowly must begin
To move betimes. Methinks I see amongst you
A face I know not.—Senator! your name;
You, by your garb, Chief of the Forty!
Mem. Signor,
I am the son of Marco Memmo.
Doge. Ah!
Your father was my friend.—But *sons* and
What, ho! my servants there! [*fathers!*
Atten. My prince!
Doge. No prince—
There are the princes of the prince! [*Pointing to the Ten's deputation*].—Prepare
To part from hence upon the instant.
Chief of the Ten. Why
So rashly? 'twill give scandal.
Doge. Answer that;
[*To the Ten.*
It is your province.—Sirs, bestir yourselves:
[*To the Servants.*
There is one burthen I beg you to bear
With care, although 'tis past all further harm—
But I will look to that myself.
Bar. He means
The body of his son.
Doge. And call Marina,
My daughter!
Enter MARINA.
Doge. Get thee ready, we must mourn
Elsewhere.
Mar. And everywhere.
Doge. True; but in freedom,
Without these jealous spies upon the great.
Signors, you may depart; what would you more?
We are going: do you fear that we shall bear
The palace with us? Its *old* walls, ten times
As *old* as I am, and I'm very old,
Have served you, so have I, and I and they
Could tell a tale; but I invoke them not
To fall upon you! else they would, as erst
The pillars of stone Dagon's temple on
The Israelite and his Philistine foes.
Such power I do believe there might exist
In such a curse as mine, provoked by such
As you; but I curse not. Adieu, good signors!
May the next duke be better than the present!
Lor. The *present* duke is Paschal Malipiero.
Doge. Not till I pass the threshold of these doors. [toll
Lor. St. Mark's great bell is soon about to
For his inauguration.
Doge. Earth and heaven!
Ye will reverberate this peal; and I [heard
Live to hear this:—the first Doge who e'er
Such sound for his successor: happier he,
My attainted predecessor, stern Faliero—
This insult at the least was spared him.
Lor. What!
Do you regret a traitor?
Doge. No—I merely
Envy the dead.
Chief of the Ten. My lord, if you indeed
Are bent upon this rash abandonment
Of the state's palace, at the least retire
By the private staircase, which conducts you
The landing place of the canal. [towards.
Doge. No. I
Will now descend the stairs by which I mounted
To sovereignty—the Giant's Stairs, on whose
Broad eminence I was invested duke.
My services have call'd me up those steps,
The malice of my foes will drive me down them.
There five-and-thirty years ago was I
Install'd, and traversed these same halls, from
I never thought to be divorced except [which
A corse—a corse, it might be, fighting for them—

But not push'd hence by fellow-citizens.
But come; my son and I will go together—
He to his grave, and I to pray for mine.
Chief of the Ten. What! thus in public!
Doge. I was publicly
Elected, and so will I be deposed.
Marina! art thou willing?
Mar. Here's my arm!
Doge. And here my *staff:* thus propp'd will
will I go forth. [will perceive it.
Chief of the Ten. It must not be—the people
Doge. The people!—There's no people, you
well know it,
Else you dare not deal thus by them or me.
There is a *populace*, perhaps, whose looks
May shame you; but they dare not groan or
Save with their hearts and eyes. [curse you,
Chief of the Ten. You speak in passion,
Else—
Doge. You have reason. I have spoken much
More than my wont: it is a foible which
Was not of mine, but more excuses you,
Inasmuch as it shows that I approach
A dotage which may justify this deed
Of yours, although the law does not, nor will.
Farewell, sirs!
Bar. You shall not depart without
An escort fitting past and present rank.
We will accompany, with due respect,
The Doge unto his private palace. Say!
My brethren, will we not?
Different voices. Ay!—Ay!
Doge. You shall not
Stir—in my train, at least. I enter'd here
As sovereign—I go out as citizen
By the same portals, but as citizen.
All these vain ceremonies are base insults,
Which only ulcerate the heart the more,
Applying poisons there as antidotes.
Pomp is for princes—I am *none!*—That's
I *am*, but only to these gates.—Ah! [false,
Lor. Hark!
[*The great bell of St. Mark's tolls.*
Bar. The bell!
Chief of the Ten. St. Mark's, which tolls for
Of Malipiero. [the election
Doge. Well I recognize
The sound! I heard it once, but once before,
And that is five and thirty years ago;
Even *then* I *was not young.*
Bar. Sit down, my lord!
You tremble.
Doge. 'Tis the knell of my poor boy!
My heart aches bitterly.
Bar. I pray you sit.
Doge. No; my seat here has been a throne
Marina! let us go. [till now.
Mar. Most readily.
Doge. [*walks a few steps and then stops*]. I
feel athirst—will no one bring me here
A cup of water?
Bar. I—
Mar. And I—
Lor. And I.
[*The* Doge *takes a goblet from the hand of* Loredano.
Doge. I take *yours*, Loredano, from the
Most fit for such an hour as this. [hand
Lor. Why so?
Doge. 'Tis said that our Venetian crystal
Such pure antipathy to poisons as [has
To burst, if aught of venom touches it.
You bore this goblet, and it is not broken.
Lor. Well, sir!
Doge. Then it is false, or you are true.
For my own part, I credit neither, 'tis
An idle legend.
Mar. You talk wildly, and
Had better now be seated, nor as yet
Depart. Ah! now you look as look'd my
husband! [chair—support him.
Bar. He sinks!—support him!—quick—a
Doge. The bell tolls on!—let's hence—my
brain's on fire!
Bar. I do beseech you, lean upon us!
Doge. No!
A sovereign should die standing. My poor
Off with your arms!—*That bell!* [boy!—
[*The* Doge *drops down and dies.*
Mar. My God! My God! [pleted!
Bar. [*to* Lor.] Behold! your work's com-
Chief of the Ten. Is there then
No aid? Call in assistance!
Att. 'Tis all over.
Chief of the Ten. If it be so, at least his
obsequies
Shall be such as befits his name and nation,
His rank and his devotion to the duties
Of the realm, while his age permitted him
To do himself and them full justice. Breth-
Say, shall it not be so? [ren,
Bar. He has not had
The misery to die a subject where [princely.
He reign'd: then let his funeral rites be
Chief of the Ten. We are agreed, then?
All, except Lor., answer, Yes.
Chief of the Ten. Heaven's peace be with
him! [ery!
Mar. Signors, your pardon: this is mock-
Juggle no more with that poor remnant,
which,
A moment since, while yet it had a soul,
(A soul by whom you have increased your
empire, [glory,)
And made your power as proud as was his
You banish'd from his palace, and tore down
From his high place, with such relentless
coldness; [honors,
And now, when he can neither know those
Now would accept them if he could, you,
signors,
Purpose, with idle and superfluous pomp,
To make a pageant over what you trampled.
A princely funeral will be your reproach,
And not his honor.
Chief of the Ten. Lady, we revoke not
Our purposes so readily.
Mar. I know it,
As far as touches torturing the living.
I thought the dead had been beyond even *you*,
Though (some no doubt) consign'd to powers
which may

Resemble that you exercise on earth.
Leave him to me; you would have done so for
His dregs of life, which you have kindly shorten'd:
It is my last of duties, and may prove
A dreary comfort in my desolation.
Grief is fantastical, and loves the dead,
And the apparel of the grave.
Chief of the Ten. Do you
Pretend still to this office?
Mar. I do, signor.
Though his possessions have been all consumed
In the state's service, I have still my dowry,
Which shall be consecrated to his rites,
And those of— [*She stops with agitation.*
Chief of the Ten. Best retain it for your children.
Mar. Ay, they are fatherless, I thank you.
Chief of the Ten. We
Cannot comply with your request. His relics
Shall be exposed with wonted pomp, and follow'd
Unto their home by the new Doge, not clad
As *Doge*, but simply as a senator. [interr'd
Mar. I have heard of murderers, who have
Their victims; but ne'er heard, until this hour,
Of so much splendor in hypocrisy [tears—*
O'er those they slew. I've heard of widows'
Alas! I have shed some—always thanks to you! [none
I've heard of *heirs* in sables—you have left
To the deceased, so you would act the part
Of such. Well, sirs, your will be done, as one
I trust, Heaven's will be done too! [day,
Chief of the Ten. Know you, lady,
To whom ye speak, and perils of such speech?
Mar. I know the former better than yourselves; [both.
The latter—like yourselves; and can face
Bar. Heed not her rash words;
Her circumstances must excuse her bearing.
Chief of the Ten. We will not note them down.
Bar. [*turning to* LOR., *who is writing upon his tablets*]. What art thou writing,
With such an earnest brow, upon thy tablets?
Lor. [*pointing to the* DOGE'S *body*]. That *he* has paid me!* [you?
Chief of the Ten. What debt did he owe
Lor. A long and just one; Nature's debt and *mine*. [*Curtain falls.*

* The Venetians appear to have had a particular turn for breaking the hearts of their Doges. The following is another instance of the kind in the Doge Marco Barbarigo: he was succeeded by his brother Agostino Barbarigo, whose chief merit is here mentioned.—Le doge, blesse de trouver constamment un contradicteur et un censeur si amer dans son frere, lui dit un jour en plein conseil; "Messire Augustin, vous faites tout votre possible pour hater ma mort; vous vous flattez de me succeder; mais, si les autres vous connaissent aussi bien que je vous connais, ils n'auront garde de vous elire." La-dessus il se leva, emu de colere, rentra dans son appartement, et mourut quelques jours apres. Ce frere, contre lequel il s'etait emporte, fut precisement le successeur qu'on lui donna. C'etait un merite dont on aimait a tenir compte; surtout a un parent, de s'etre mis en opposition avec le chef de la republique."—DARU, "Hist. de Venise," t. ii. p. 533.

* "L'ha pagata." An historical fact. See "Hist. de Venise," par P. DARU, t. ii. p. 411.

CAIN:

A MYSTERY.

1821.

"Now the Serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made."—Gen. iii. 1.

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.,

THIS MYSTERY OF CAIN IS INSCRIBED,

BY HIS OBLIGED FRIEND AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE following scenes are entitled "A Mystery," in conformity with the ancient title annexed to dramas upon similar subjects, which were styled "Mysteries, or Moralities." The author has by no means taken the same liberties with his subject which were common formerly, as may be seen by any reader curious enough to refer to those very profane productions, whether in English, French, Italian, or Spanish. The author has endeavored to preserve the language adapted to his characters; and where it is (and this is but rarely) taken from actual Scripture, he has made as little alteration, even of words, as the rhythm would permit. The reader will recollect that the book of Genesis does not state that Eve was tempted by a demon, but by "the serpent"; and that only because he was "the most subtle of all the beasts of the field." Whatever interpretation the Rabbins and the Fathers may have put upon this, I take the words as I find them, and reply, with Bishop Watson upon similar occasions, when the Fathers were quoted to him, as Moderator in the schools of Cambridge, "Behold the Book!"—holding up the Scripture. It is to be recollected that my present subject has nothing to do with the "New Testament," to which no reference can be here made without anachronism. With the poems upon similar topics I have not been recently familiar. Since I was twenty, I have never read Milton; but I had read him so frequently before, that this may make little difference. Gesner's "Death of Abel" I have never read since I was eight years of age, at Aberdeen. The general impression of my recollection is delight; but of the contents I remember only that Cain's wife was called Mahala, and Abel's Thirza: in the following pages I have called them "Adah" and "Zillah," the earliest female names which occur in Genesis: they were those of Lamech's wives; those of Cain and Abel are not called by their names. Whether, then, a coincidence of subject may have caused the same expression, I know nothing, and care as little.

The reader will please to bear in mind (what few choose to recollect), that there is no allusion to a future state in any of the books of Moses, nor indeed in the Old Testament. For a reason for this extraordinary omission, he may consult Warburton's "Divine Legation": whether satisfactory or not, no better has yet been assigned. I have therefore supposed it new to Cain, without, I hope, any perversion of Holy Writ.

With regard to the language of Lucifer, it was difficult for me to make him talk like a clergyman upon the same subjects; but I have done what I could to restrain him within the bounds of spiritual politeness.

If he disclaims having tempted Eve in the shape of the Serpent, it is only because the book of Genesis has not the most distant allusion to anything of the kind, but merely to the Serpent, in his serpentine capacity.

NOTE.—The reader will perceive that the author has partly adopted in this poem the notion of Cuvier, that the world had been destroyed several times before the creation of man. This speculation, derived from the different strata and the bones of enormous and unknown animals found in them, is not contrary to the Mosaic account, but rather confirms it; as no human bones have yet been discovered in those strata, although those of many known animals are found near the remains of the unknown. The assertion of Lucifer, that the pre-Adamite world was also peopled by rational beings much more intelligent than man, and proportionably powerful to the mammoth, etc., etc., is, of course, a poetical fiction to help him to make out his case.

I ought to add, that there is a "tramelogedia" of Alfieri, called "Abele."—I have never read that, nor any other of the posthumous works of the writer, except his Life.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MEN.	SPIRITS.	WOMEN.
ADAM.	ANGEL OF THE LORD.	EVE.
CAIN.	LUCIFER.	ADAH.
ABEL.		ZILLAH.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—*The Land without Paradise.—Time, Sunrise.*

ADAM, EVE, CAIN, ABEL, ADAH, ZILLAH, *offering a sacrifice.*

Adam. GOD, the Eternal! Infinite! All-wise!
Who out of darkness on the deep didst make
Light on the waters with a word—all hail.
Jehovah, with returning light, all hail!

Eve. God! who didst name the day and separate
Morning from night, till then divided never—
Who didst divide the wave from wave, and call
Part of Thy work the firmament—all hail!

Abel. God! who didst call the elements into
Earth—ocean—air—and fire, and with the day
And night, and worlds, which these illuminate,
Or shadow, madest beings to enjoy them,
And love both them and Thee—all hail! all hail! [things!

Adah. God, the Eternal! Parent of all
Who didst create these best and beauteous beings,
To be beloved, more than all, save Thee—
Let me love Thee and them:—All hail! all hail! [ing all,

Zillah. O God! who loving, making, bless-
Yet didst permit the Serpent to creep in,
And drive my father forth from Paradise,
Keep us from further evil:—Hail! all hail!

Adam. Son Cain, my first-born, wherefore
Cain. Why should I speak? [art thou silent?
Adam. To pray.
Cain. Have ye not prayed?
Adam. We have, most fervently.
Cain. And loudly: I
Have heard you.
Adam. So will God, I trust.
Abel. Amen!
Adam. But thou, my eldest born, art silent
Cain. 'Tis better I should be so. [still.
Adam. Wherefore so?
Cain. I have nought to ask.
Adam. Nor aught to thank for?
Cain. No.
Adam. Dost thou not live?
Cain. Must I not die?
Eve. Alas!
The fruit of our forbidden tree begins
To fall.
Adam. And we must gather it again. [ledge?
O God! why didst thou plant the tree of knowl-
Cain. And wherefore pluck'd ye not the tree
Ye might have then defied Him. [of life?
Adam. Oh! my son,
Blaspheme not: these are serpents' words.
Cain. Why not?
The snake spoke *truth*; it *was* the tree of knowledge;
It *was* the tree of life: knowledge is good,
And life is good: and can both be evil?
Eve. My boy! thou speakest as I spoke, in
Before thy birth: let me not see renew'd [sin,
My misery in thine. I have repented.
Let me not see my offspring fall into
The snares beyond the walls of Paradise,
Which e'en in Paradise destroyed his parents.
Content thee with what *is*. Had we been so,
Thou now hadst been contented.—Oh, my son!
Adam. Our orisons completed, let us hence,
Each to his task of toil—not heavy, though
Needful: the earth is young, and yields us
Her fruits with little labor. [kindly
Eve. Cain, my son,
Behold thy father cheerful and resign'd,
And do as he doth. [*Exeunt* ADAM *and* EVE.
Zillah. Wilt thou not, my brother?
Abel. Why wilt thou wear this gloom upon thy brow,
Which can avail thee nothing, save to rouse
The Eternal anger?
Adah. My beloved Cain,
Wilt thou frown even on me?
Cain. No, Adah! no;
I fain would be alone a little while.
Abel, I'm sick at heart; but it will pass.
Precede me, brother—I will follow shortly.
And you too, sisters, tarry not behind;
Your gentleness must not be harshly met;
I'll follow you anon.
Adah. If not, I will
Return to seek you here.
Abel. The peace of God
Be on your spirit, brother!
[*Exeunt* ABEL, ZILLAH *and* ADAH.
Cain. [*solus*]. And this is

Life!—Toil! and wherefore should I toil?—because
My father could not keep his place in Eden!
What had *I* done in this?—I was unborn:
I sought not to be born; nor love the state
To which that birth has brought me. Why did
Yield to the serpent and the woman? or, [he
Yielding, why suffer? What was there in this?
The tree was planted, and why not for him?
If not, why place him near it, where it grew,
The fairest in the centre? They have but
One answer to all questions, "'Twas *His* will,
And *He* is good." How know I that? Because
He is all-powerful, must all-good, too, follow?
I judge but by the fruits—and they are bitter—
Which I must feed on for a fault not mine.
Whom have we here?—A shape like to the
Yet of a sterner and a sadder aspect [angels,
Of spiritual essence; why do I quake?
Why should I fear him more than other spirits,
Whom I see daily wave their fiery swords
Before the gates round which I linger oft,
In twilight's hour, to catch a glimpse of those
Gardens which are my just inheritance,
Ere the night closes o'er the inhibited walls
And the immortal trees which overtop
The cherubim-defended battlements?
If I shrink not from these, the fire-arm'd angels [proaches?
Why should I quail from him who now ap-
Yet he seems mightier far than them, nor less
Beauteous, and yet not all as beautiful
As he hath been, and might be: sorrow seems
Half of his immortality. And is it
So? and can aught grieve save humanity?
He cometh.

Enter LUCIFER.

Lucifer. Mortal!

Cain. Spirit, who art thou?

Lucifer. Master of Spirits.

Cain. And being so, canst thou
Leave them and walk with dust?

Lucifer. I know the thoughts
Of dust, and feel for it, and with you.

Cain. How?
You know my thoughts?

Lucifer. They are the thoughts of all
Worthy of thought;—'tis your immortal part
Which speaks within you.

Cain. What immortal part?
This has not been reveal'd: the tree of life
Was withheld from us by my father's folly,
While that of knowledge, by my mother's haste, [death!
Was pluck'd too soon; and all the fruit is

Lucifer. They have deceived thee; thou shalt live.

Cain. I live,
But live to die: and, living, see no thing
To make death hateful, save an innate cling-
A loathsome, and yet all invincible [ing,
Instinct of life, which I abhor, as I
Despise myself, yet cannot overcome—
And so I live. Would I had never lived!

Lucifer. Thou livest, and must live forever; think not
The earth, which is thine outward cov'ring, is
Existence—it will cease, and thou wilt be
No less than thou art now.

Cain. No *less!* and why
No more?

Lucifer. It may be thou shalt be as we.

Cain. And ye?

Lucifer. Are everlasting.

Cain. Are ye happy?

Lucifer. We are mighty.

Cain. Are ye happy?

Lucifer. No: art thou?

Cain. How should I be so? Look on me!

Lucifer. Poor clay:
And thou pretendest to be wretched! Thou!

Cain. I am:—and thou, with all thy might, what art thou? [thee, and

Lucifer. One who aspired to be what made
Would not have made thee what thou art.

Cain. Ah!
Thou look'st almost a god; and—

Lucifer. I am none:
And having fail'd to be one, would be nought
Save what I am. He conquer'd; let Him reign!

Cain. Who?

Lucifer. Thy sire's Maker, and the earth's.

Cain. And heaven's,
And all that in them is. So I have heard
His seraphs sing, and so my father saith,

Lucifer. They say—what they must sing and say, on pain
Of being that which I am—and thou art—
Of spirits and of men.

Cain. And what is that?

Lucifer. Souls who dare use their immortality—
Souls who dare look the Omnipotent tyrant in
His everlasting face, and tell Him that
His evil is not good! If he has made,
As He saith—which I know not, nor believe—
But if He made us—He cannot unmake;
We are immortal—nay, He'd *have* us so,
That He may torture: let Him. He is great—
But, in his greatness, no happier than
We in our conflict! Goodness would not make
Evil: and what else hath he made? But let Him
Sit on His vast and solitary throne,
Creating worlds, to make eternity
Less burthensome to His immense existence
And unparticipated solitude;
Let Him crowd orb on orb: He is alone
Indefinite, indissoluble tyrant; [boon
Could He but crush Himself, 'twere the best
He ever granted: but, let Him reign on,
And multiply Himself in misery!
Spirits and men, at least we sympathize—
And, suffering in concert, make our pangs,
Innumerable, more endurable,
By the unbounded sympathy of all
With all! But *He!* so wretched in His height
So restless in his wretchedness, must still
Create, and re-create— [long have swum

Cain. Thou speak'st to me of things which
In visions through my thought! I never could
Reconcile what I saw with what I heard.
My father and my mother talk to me

Of serpents, and of fruits and trees; I see
The gates of what they call their Paradise
Guarded by fiery-sworded cherubim, [weight
Which shut them out, and me: I feel the
Of daily toil and constant thought: I look
Around a world where I seem nothing, with
Thoughts which arise within me, as if they
Could master all things—but I thought alone,
This misery was *mine*.—My father is
Tamed down; my mother has forgot the mind
Which made her thirst for knowledge at the
Of an eternal curse; my brother is [risk
A watching shepherd boy, who offers up
The firstlings of the flock to Him who bids
The earth yield nothing to us without sweat;
My sister Zillah sings an earlier hymn
Than the bird's matins; and my Adah, my
Own and beloved, she, too, understands not
The mind which overwhelms me: never till
Now met I aught to sympathize with me.
'Tis well—I rather would consort with spirits.

Lucifer. And hadst thou not been fit by thine own soul
For such companionship, I would not now
Have stood before thee as I am: a serpent
Had been enough to charm ye, as before.

Cain. Ah! didst *thou* tempt my mother?

Lucifer. I tempt none,
Save with the truth: was not the tree, the tree
Of knowledge? and was not the tree of life
Still fruitful? Did *I* bid her pluck them not?
Did *I* plant things prohibited within
The reach of beings innocent, and curious
By their own innocence? I would have made ye
Gods: and even He who thrust ye forth, so thrust ye
Because "ye should not eat the fruits of life,
And become gods as We." Were those His words?

Cain. They were, as I have heard from those
In thunder. [who heard them,

Lucifer. Then who was the demon? He
Who would not let ye live, or he who would
Have made ye live forever in the joy
And power of knowledge?

Cain. Would they had snatch'd both
The fruits, or neither.

Lucifer. One is yours already;
The other may be still.

Cain. How so?

Lucifer. By being
Yourselves in your resistance. Nothing can
Quench the mind, if the mind will be itself
And centre of surrounding things—'tis made
To sway.

Cain. But didst thou tempt my parents?

Lucifer. I?
Poor clay! what should I tempt them for, or how?

Cain. They say the serpent was a spirit.

Lucifer. Who
Saith that? It is not written so on high:
The Proud One will not so far falsify,
Though man's vast fears and little vanity
Would make him cast upon the spiritual nature
His own low failing. The snake *was* the snake— [tempted,
No more, and yet not less than those he
In nature being earth also—*more* in *wisdom*,
Since he could overcome them, and foreknew
The knowledge fatal to their narrow joys.
Think'st thou I'd take the shape of things that die?

Cain. But the thing had a demon?

Lucifer. He but woke one
In those he spake to with his forky tongue.
I tell thee that the serpent was no more
Than a mere serpent: ask the cherubim
Who guard the tempting tree. When thousand ages [seed's,
Have roll'd o'er your dead ashes, and your
The seed of the then world may thus array
Their earliest fault in fable, and attribute
To me a shape I scorn, as I scorn all [bend
That bows to Him, who made things but to
Before His sullen, sole eternity;
But we who see the truth must speak it. Thy
Fond parents listen'd to a creeping thing,
And fell. For what should spirits tempt them? What
Was there to envy in the narrow bounds
Of Paradise, that spirits who pervade
Space—but I speak to thee of what thou know'st not,
With all thy tree of knowledge.

Cain. But thou canst not
Speak aught of knowledge which I would not know,
And do not thirst to know, and bear a mind
To know.

Lucifer. And heart to look on?

Cain. Be it proved,

Lucifer. Darest thou look on Death?

Cain. He has not yet
Been seen.

Lucifer. But must be undergone.

Cain. My father
Says he is something dreadful, and my mother [his eyes
Weeps when he is named; and Abel lifts
To heaven, and Zillah casts hers to the earth,
And sighs a prayer: and Adah looks on me,
And speaks not.

Lucifer. And thou?

Cain. Thoughts unspeakable
Crowd in my breast to burning, when I hear
Of this almighty Death, who is, it seems,
Inevitable. Could I wrestle with him?
I wrestled with the lion, when a boy,
In play, till he ran roaring from my gripe.

Lucifer. It has no shape, but will absorb all things
That bear the form of earth-born being.

Cain. Ah!
I thought it was a being: who could do
Such evil things to being save a being.

Lucifer. Ask the Destroyer.

Cain. Who?

Lucifer. The Maker—call him
Which name thou wilt; He makes but to destroy.

Cain. I knew not that, yet thought it, since I heard
Of death: although I know not what it is,
Yet it seems horrible. I have look'd out
In the vast desolate night in search of him;
And when I saw gigantic shadows in
The umbrage of the walls of Eden, chequer'd
By the far-flashing of the cherubs' swords,
I watch'd for what I thought his coming; for
With fear rose longing in my heart to know
What 'twas which shook us all—but nothing came.
And then I turn'd my weary eyes from off
Our native and forbidden Paradise,
Up to the lights above us, in the azure,
Which are so beautiful: shall they, too, die?
Lucifer. Perhaps—but long outlive both thine and thee. [them die—
Cain. I'm glad of that: I would not have
They are so lovely. What is death? I fear,
I feel it is a dreadful thing; but what,
I cannot compass: 'tis denounced against us,
Both them who sinn'd and sinn'd not, as an
What ill? [ill—
Lucifer. To be resolved into the earth.
Cain. But shall I know it?
Lucifer. As I know not death,
I cannot answer.
Cain. Were I quiet earth,
That were no evil: would I ne'er had been
Aught else but dust!
Lucifer. That is a grovelling wish,
Less than thy father's, for he wish'd to know.
Cain. But not to live, or wherefore pluck'd
The life-tree? [he not
Lucifer. He was hinder'd.
Cain. Deadly error!
Not to snatch first that fruit:—but ere he pluck'd
The knowledge, he was ignorant of death.
Alas, I scarcely now know what it is;
And yet I fear it—fear I know not what.
Lucifer. And I, who know all things, fear nothing: see
What is true knowledge.
Cain. Wilt thou teach me all?
Lucifer. Ay, upon one condition.
Cain. Name it.
Lucifer. That
Thou dost fall down and worship me—thy Lord. [worships.
Cain. Thou art not the Lord my father
Lucifer. No.
Cain. His equal? [with him!
Lucifer. No: I have nought in common
Nor would; I would be aught above—beneath—
Aught save a sharer or a servant of
His power. I dwell apart; but I am great:—
Many there are who worship me, and more
Who shall—be thou among the first.
Cain. I never
As yet have bow'd unto my father's God,
Although my brother Abel oft implores
That I would join with him in sacrifice:—
Why should I bow to thee?
Lucifer. Hast thou ne'er bowed
To Him?
Cain. Have I not said it?—need I say it?
Could not thy mighty knowledge teach thee that? [bow'd to me!
Lucifer. He who bows not to Him has
Cain. But I will bend to neither.
Lucifer. Ne'er the less,
Thou art my worshipper: not worshipping
Him, makes thee mine the same.
Cain. And what is that?
Lucifer. Thou'lt know here—and hereafter.
Cain. Let me but
Be taught the mystery of my being.
Lucifer. Follow
Where I lead thee.
Cain. But I must retire
To till the earth—for I had promised—
Lucifer. What?
Cain. To cull some first-fruits.
Lucifer. Why?
Cain. To offer up
With Abel on an altar.
Lucifer. Saidst thou not
Thou ne'er hadst bent to Him who made thee?
Cain. Yes:—
But Abel's earnest prayer has wrought upon me: [Adah—
The offering is more his than mine—and
Lucifer. Why dost thou hesitate?
Cain. She is my sister,
Born on the same day, of the same womb: and
She wrung from me, with tears, this promise; and
Rather than see her weep, I would, methinks,
Bear all—and worship aught.
Lucifer. Then follow me!
Cain. I will.

Enter ADAH.

Adah. My brother, I have come for thee;
It is our hour of rest and joy—and we [not
Have less without thee. Thou hast labor'd
This morn; but I have done thy task: the fruits [ripens:
Are ripe, and glowing as the light which
Come away.
Cain. Seest thou not?
Adah. I see an angel:
We have seen many: will he share our hour
Of rest?—he is welcome.
Cain. But he is not like
The angels we have seen.
Adah. Are there, then, others?
But he is welcome, as they were: they deign'd
To be our guests—will he?
Cain [*to* LUCIFER]. Wilt thou?
Lucifer. I ask
Thee to be mine.
Cain. I must away with him.
Adah. And leave us?
Cain. Ay.
Adah. And *me?*
Cain. Beloved Adah!
Adah. Let me go with thee.
Lucifer. No, she must not,

Adah. Who
Art thou that steppest between heart and
Cain. He is a god. [heart?
Adah. How know'st thou?
Cain. He speaks like
A god.
Adah. So did the Serpent, and it lied.
Lucifer. Thou errest, Adah!—was not the
Of knowledge? [tree that
Adah. Ay—to our eternal sorrow.
Lucifer. And yet that grief is knowledge—
so he lied not:
And if he did betray you, 'twas with truth;
And truth in its own essence cannot be
But good.
Adah. But all we know of it has gather'd
Evil on ill: expulsion from our home,
And dread, and toil, and sweat, and heaviness;
Remorse of that which was—and hope of that
Which cometh not. Cain! walk not with this
spirit.
Bear with what we have borne, and love me—I
Love thee. [sire?
Lucifer. More than thy mother, and thy
Adah. I do. Is that a sin, too?
Lucifer. No, not yet:
It one day will be in your children.
Adah. What!
Must not my daughter love her brother Enoch?
Lucifer. Not as thou lovest Cain.
Adah. Oh! my God!
Shall they not love, and bring forth things
that love [milk
Out of their love? have they not drawn their
Gut of this bosom? was not he, their father,
Born of the same sole womb, in the same hour
With me? Did we not love each other? and
In multiplying our being multiply
Things which will love each other as we love
Them?—And as I love thee, my Cain! go not
Forth with this spirit; he is not of ours. [ing,
Lucifer. The sin I speak of is not of my mak-
And cannot be a sin in you—whate'er
It seems in those who will replace ye in
Mortality.
Adah. What is the sin which is not
Sin in itself? Can circumstance make sin
Or virtue?—if it doth, we are the slaves
Of— [and higher
Lucifer. Higher things than ye are slaves;
Than them or ye would be so, did they not
Prefer an independency of torture
To the smooth agonies of adulation, [prayers,
In hymns and harpings, and self-seeking
To that which is omnipotent, because
It is omnipotent, and not from love,
But terror and self-hope.
Adah. Omnipotence
Must be all goodness.
Lucifer. Was it so in Eden?
Adah. Fiend! tempt me not with beauty;
thou art fairer
Than was the serpent, and as false.
Lucifer. As true.
Ask Eve, your mother: bears she not the
Of good and evil? [knowledge

Adah. Oh, my mother! thou [spring
Hast pluck'd a fruit more fatal to thine off-
Than to thyself; thou at the least hast pass'd
Thy youth in Paradise, in innocent
And happy intercourse with happy spirits:
But we, thy children, ignorant of Eden,
Art girt about by demons, who assume
The words of God, and tempt us with our own
Dissatisfied and curious thoughts—as thou
Wert work'd on by the snake, in thy most
flush'd
And heedless, harmless wantonness of bless.
I cannot answer this immortal thing
Which stands before me; I cannot abhor him;
I look upon him with a pleasing fear,
And yet I fly not from him; in his eye
There is a fastening attraction which
Fixes my fluttering eyes on his; my heart
Beats quick; he awes me, and yet draws me
near, [from him!
Nearer and nearer:—Cain—Cain—save me
Cain. What dreads my Adah? This is no
ill spirit. [beheld
Adah. He is not God—nor God's: I have
The cherubs and the seraphs; he looks not
Like them.
Cain. But there are spirits loftier still—
The archangels. [angels.
Lucifer. And still loftier than the arch-
Adah. Ay—but not blessed.
Lucifer. If the blessedness
Consists in slavery—no.
Adah. I have heard it said,
The seraphs *love most*—cherubim *know*
most— [not.
And this should be a cherub—since he loves
Lucifer. And if the higher knowledge
quenches love,
What must *he be* you cannot love when known?
Since the all-knowing cherubim love least,
The seraphs' love can be but ignorance:
That they are not compatible, the doom
Of thy fond parents, for their daring, proves.
Choose betwixt love and knowledge—since
there is [already:
No other choice; your sire hath chosen
His worship is but fear.
Adah. Oh, Cain! choose love.
Cain. For thee, my Adah, I choose not—it
Born with me—but I love nought else. [was
Adah. Our parents?
Cain. Did they love us when they snatch'd
from the tree
That which hath driven us all from Paradise?
Adah. We were not born then—and if we
had been, [Cain?
Should we not love them and our children,
Cain. My little Enoch! and his lisping
sister?
Could I but deem them happy, I would half
Forget—but it can never be forgotten
Through thrice a thousand generations! Never
Shall men love the remembrance of the man
Who sow'd the seed of evil and mankind
In the same hour! They pluck'd the tree of
science

And sin—and, not content with their own sorrow,
Begot *me*—*thee*—and all the few that are,
And all the unnumber'd and innumerable
Multitudes, millions, myriads, which may be,
To inherit agonies accumulated
By ages!—and *I* must be sire of such things!
Thy beauty and thy love—my love and joy,
The rapturous moment and the placid hour,
All we love in our children and each other,
But lead them and ourselves through many years
Of sin and pain—or few, but still of sorrow,
Intercheck'd with an instant of brief pleasure,
To Death—the unknown! Methinks the tree of knowledge
Hath not fulfill'd its promise—if they sinn'd,
At least they ought to have known all things that are
Of knowledge—and the mystery of death.
What do they know?—that they are miserable.
What need of snakes and fruits to teach us that?

Adah. I am not wretched, Cain; and if thou
Wert happy—

Cain. Be thou happy, then, alone—
I will have nought to do with happiness,
Which humbles me and mine.

Adah. Alone I could not,
Nor *would* be happy; but with those around
I think I could be so, despite of death, [us
Which, as I know it not, I dread not, though
It seems an awful shadow—if I may
Judge from what I have heard.

Lucifer. And thou couldst not *Alone*, thou say'st, be happy?

Adah. Alone! Oh, my God!
Who could be happy and alone, or good?
To me my solitude seems sin; unless
When I think how soon I shall see my brother,
His brother, and our children, and our parents.

Lucifer. Yet thy God is alone; and is He
Lonely, and good? [happy,

Adah. He is not so; He hath
The angels and the mortals to make happy,
And thus becomes so in diffusing joy.
What else can joy be, but the spreading joy?

Lucifer. Ask of your sire, the exile fresh from Eden;
Or of his first-born son: ask your own heart;
It is not tranquil.

Adah. Alas! no! and you—
Are you of heaven?

Lucifer. If I am not, inquire
The cause of this all-spreading happiness
(Which you proclaim) of the all-great and good
Maker of life and living things; it is
His secret, and he keeps it. *We* must bear,
And some of us resist, and both in vain,
His seraphs say; but it is worth the trial,
Since better may not be without: there is
A wisdom in the spirit, which directs
To right, as in the dim blue air the eye
Of you, young mortals, lights at once upon
The star which watches, welcoming the morn.

Adah. It is a beautiful star; I love it for its
Lucifer. And why not adore? [beauty.

Adah. Our father
Adores the Invisible only.

Lucifer. But the symbols
Of the Invisible are the loveliest
Of what is visible; and yon bright star
Is leader of the host of heaven.

Adah. Our father
Saith that he has beheld the God Himself
Who made him and our mother.

Lucifer. Hast *thou* seen Him?

Adah. Yes—in His works.

Lucifer. But in His being?

Adah. No—
Save in my father, who is God's own image;
Or in His angels, who are like to thee—
And brighter, yet less beautiful and powerful
In seeming: as the silent sunny noon,
All light they look upon us; but thou seem'st
Like an ethereal night, where long white clouds
Streak the deep purple, and unnumber'd stars
Spangle the wonderful mysterious vault
With things that look as if they would be suns;
So beautiful, unnumber'd, and endearing,
Not dazzling, and yet drawing us to them,
They fill my eyes with tears, and so dost thou.
Thou seem'st unhappy; do not make us so,
And I will weep for thee.

Lucifer. Alas! those tears!
Couldst thou but know what oceans will be
Adah. By me? [shed—

Lucifer. By all.

Adah. What all?

Lucifer. The million millions—
The myriad myriads—the all-peopled earth—
The unpeopled earth—and the o'er-peopled
Of which thy bosom is the germ. [Hell,

Adah. O Cain!
This spirit curseth us.

Cain. Let him say on;
Him will I follow.

Adah. Whither?

Lucifer. To a place
Whence he shall come back to thee in an hour:
But in that hour see things of many days.

Adah. How can that be?

Lucifer. Did not your Maker make
Out of old worlds this new one in few days?
And cannot I, who aided in this work,
Show in an hour what He hath made in many,
Or hath destroyed in few?

Cain. Lead on.

Adah. Will he,
In sooth, return within an hour?

Lucifer. He shall.
With us acts are exempt from time, and we
Can crowd eternity into an hour,
Or stretch an hour into eternity;
We breathe not by a mortal measurement—
But that's a mystery. Cain, come on with me.

Adah. Will he return?

Lucifer. Ay, woman! he alone
Of mortals from that place (the first and last
Who shall return, save ONE) shall come back to thee,

To make that silent and expectant world
As populous as this: at present there
Are few inhabitants.
Adah. Where dwellest thou?
Lucifer. Throughout all space. Where should I dwell? Where are
Thy God or Gods—there am I: all things are
Divided with me; life and death—and time—
Eternity—and heaven and earth—and that
Which is not heaven nor earth, but peopled with
Those who once peopled or shall people both—
These are my realms! So that I do divide
His, and possess a kingdom which is not
His. If I were not that which I have said,
Could I stand here? His angels are within
Your vision.
Adah. So they were when the fair serpent
Spoke with our mother first.
Lucifer. Cain! thou hast heard.
If thou dost long for knowledge, I can satiate
That thirst; nor ask thee to partake of fruits
Which shall deprive thee of a single good
The Conqueror has left thee. Follow me.
Cain. Spirit, I have said it.
[*Exeunt* LUCIFER *and* CAIN.
Adah [*follows, exclaiming*]. Cain! my brother! Cain!

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*The Abyss of Space.*

Cain. I tread on air, and sink not; yet I
To sink. [fear
Lucifer. Have faith in me, and thou shalt be
Borne on the air, of which I am the prince.
Cain. Can I do so without impiety?
Lucifer. Believe—and sink not! doubt—and perish! thus
Would run the edict of the other God,
Who names me demon to His angels; they
Echo the sound to miserable things,
Which, knowing nought beyond their shallow senses [deem
Worship the word which strikes their ear, and
Evil or good what is proclaimed to them
In their abasement. I will have none such:
Worship or worship not, thou shalt behold
The worlds beyond thy little world, nor be
Amerced for doubts beyond thy little life,
With torture of *my* dooming. There will come
An hour, when, toss'd upon some water-drops,
A man shall say to a man, "Believe in me,
And walk the waters"; and the man shall walk
The billows and be safe. *I* will not say,
Believe in *me*, as a conditional creed
To save thee; but fly with me o'er the gulf
Of space an equal flight, and I will show
What thou dar'st not deny—the history
Of past, and present, and of future worlds.
Cain. Oh, god, or demon, or what'er thou
Is yon our earth? [art,
Lucifer. Dost thou not recognize
The dust which formed your father?
Cain. Can it be?
Yon small blue circle, swinging in far ether,
With an inferior circlet near it still, [night?
Which looks like that which lit our earthly
Is this our Paradise? Where are its walls,
And they who guard them?
Lucifer. Point me out the site
Of Paradise.
Cain. How should I? As we move
Like sunbeams onward, it grows small and
And as it waxes little, and then less, [smaller,
Gathers a halo round it, like the light
Which shone the roundest of the stars, when I
Beheld them from the skirts of Paradise:
Methinks they both, as we recede from them,
Appear to join the innumerable stars
Which are around us; and, as we move on,
Increase their myriads.
Lucifer. And if there should be
Worlds greater than thine own, inhabited
By greater things, and they themselves far more
In number than the dust of thy dull earth,
Though multiplied to animated atoms,
All living, and all doom'd to death, and
What wouldst thou think? [wretched,
Cain. I should be proud of thought
Which knew such things.
Lucifer. But if that high thought were
Link'd to a servile mass of matter, and
Knowing such things, aspiring to such things,
And science still beyond them, were chain'd down
To the most gross and petty paltry wants,
All foul and fulsome, and the very best
Of thine enjoyments a sweet degradation,
A most enervating and filthy cheat
To lure thee on to the renewal of
Fresh souls and bodies, all foredoom'd to be
As frail, and few so happy—
Cain. Spirit! I
Know nought of death, save as a dreadful thing
Of which I have heard my parents speak, as of
A hideous heritage I owe to them
No less than life; a heritage not happy,
If I may judge, till now. But, spirit! if
It be as thou hast said (and I within
Feel the prophetic torture of its truth),
Here let me die: for to give birth to those
Who can but suffer many years, and die,
Methink is merely progagating death,
And multiplying murder.
Lucifer. Thou canst not
All die—there is what must survive.
Cain. The Other
Spake not of this unto my father, when
He shut him forth from Paradise, with death
Written upon his forehead. But at least
Let what is mortal of me perish, that
I may be in the rest as angels are.
Lucifer. I am angelic: wouldst thou be as I am? [power,
Cain. I know not what thou art: I see thy
And see thou show'st me things beyond *my* power,
Beyond all power of my born faculties,

Although inferior still to my desires
And my conceptions.
Lucifer. What are they which dwell
So humbly in their pride, as to sojourn
With worms in clay?
Cain. And what art thou who dwellest
So haughtily in spirit, and canst range
Nature and immortality—and yet
Seem'st sorrowful?
Lucifer. I seem that which I am;
And therefore do I ask of thee, if thou
Wouldst be immortal?
Cain. Thou hast said, I must be
Immortal in despite of me. I knew not
This until lately—but since it must be,
Let me, or happy or unhappy, learn
To anticipate my immortality. [thee.
Lucifer. Thou didst before I came upon
Cain. How?
Lucifer. By suffering.
Cain. And must torture be immortal?
Lucifer. We and thy sons will try. But now,
Is it not glorious? [behold!
Cain. Oh, thou beautiful
And unimaginable ether! and
Ye multiplying masses of increased
And still increasing lights! what are ye? what
Is this blue wilderness of interminable
Air, where ye roll along, as I have seen
The leaves along the limpid streams of Eden?
Is your course measured for ye? Or do ye
Sweep on in your unbounded revelry
Through an aerial universe of endless
Expansion—at which my soul aches to think—
Intoxicated with eternity?
O God! O Gods! or whatsoe'er ye are!
How beautiful ye are! how beautiful
Your works, or accidents, or whatsoe'er
They may be! Let me die, as atoms die
(If that they die), or know ye in your might
And knowledge! My thoughts are not in this hour
Unworthy what I see, though my dust is.
Spirit! let me expire, or see them nearer.
Lucifer. Art thou not nearer? Look back to thine earth! [mass
Cain. Where is it? I see nothing save a
Of most innumerable lights.
Lucifer. Look there!
Cain. I cannot see it.
Lucifer. Yet it sparkles still.
Cain. That!—yonder!
Lucifer. Yea.
Cain. And wilt thou tell me so?
Why, I have seen the fire-flies and fire-worms
Sprinkle the dusky groves and the green banks
In the dim twilight, brighter than yon world
Which bears them. [worlds,
Lucifer. Thou hast seen both worms and
Each bright and sparkling—what dost think of them? [sphere,
Cain. That they are beautiful in their own
And that the night, which makes both beautiful,
The little shining fire-fly in its flight,
And the immortal star in its great course,
Must both be guided.
Lucifer. But by whom or what?
Cain. Show me.
Lucifer. Dar'st thou behold?
Cain. How know I what
I *dare* behold? As yet thou hast shown
I dare not gaze on further. [nought
Lucifer. On, then, with me.
Wouldst thou behold things mortal or im-
Cain. Why, what are things? [mortal?
Lucifer. *Both* partly; but what doth
Sit next thy heart?
Cain. The things I see.
Lucifer. But what
Sate nearest it?
Cain. The things I have not seen,
Nor never shall—the mysteries of death.
Lucifer. What, if I show to thee things which have died,
As I have shown thee much which cannot die?
Cain. Do so.
Lucifer. Away, then, on our mighty wings.
Cain. Oh, how we cleave the blue! The stars fade from us! [on it,
The earth! where is my earth? Let me look
For I was made of it.
Lucifer. 'Tis now beyond thee,
Less, in the universe, than thou in it;
Yet deem not that thou canst escape it: thou
Shalt soon return to earth and all its dust:
'Tis part of thy eternity, and mine.
Cain. Where dost thou lead me?
Lucifer. To what was before thee!
The phantasm of the world; of which thy
Is but the wreck. [world
Cain. What! is it not then new?
Lucifer. No more than life is; and that was ere thou
Or *I* were, or the things which seem to us
Greater than either: many things will have
No end; and some, which would pretend to have
Had no beginning, have had one as mean
As thou; and mightier things have been extinct
To make way for much meaner than we can
Surmise; for *moments* only and the *space*
Have been and must be all *unchangeable*.
But changes make not death, except to clay:
But thou art clay—and canst but comprehend
That which was clay; and such thou shalt behold. [survey.
Cain. Clay, spirit! what thou wilt, I can
Lucifer. Away, then!
Cain. But the lights fade from me fast,
And some till now grew larger as we ap-
And wore the looks of worlds. [proach'd,
Lucifer. And such they are.
Cain. And Edens in them?
Lucifer. It may be.
Cain. And men?
Lucifer. Yea, or things higher.
Cain. Ay! and serpents too?
Lucifer. Wouldst thou have men without them? must no reptiles
Breathe save the erect ones?
Cain. How the lights recede!

Where fly we?
Lucifer. To the world of phantoms, which
Are beings past, and shadows still to come.
Cain. But it grows dark, and dark—the stars
Lucifer. And yet thou seest. [are gone!
Cain. 'Tis a fearful light!
No sun, no moon, no lights innumerable.
The very blue of the empurpled night
Fades to a dreary twilight, yet I see
Huge dusky masses: but unlike the worlds
We were approaching, which, begirt with light, [phere
Seem'd full of life even when their atmos-
Of light gave way, and show'd them taking shapes
Unequal, of deep valleys and vast mountains;
And some emitting sparks, and some display-
Enormous liquid plains, and some begirt [ing
With luminous belts, and floating moons, which took,
Like them, the features of fair earth:—instead,
All here seems dark and dreadful.
Lucifer. But distinct.
Thou seekest to behold death and dead things?
Cain. I seek it not: but as I know there are
Such, and that my sire's sin makes him and
And all that we inherit, liable [me,
To such, I would behold at once, what I
Must one day see perforce.
Lucifer. Behold.
Cain. 'Tis darkness.
Lucifer. And so it shall be ever; but we
Unfold its gates! [will
Cain. Enormous vapors roll
Apart—what's this?
Lucifer. Enter!
Cain. Can I return?
Lucifer. Return! be sure: how else should death be peopled?
Its present realm is thin to what it will be,
Through thee and thine.
Cain. The clouds still open wide
And wider, and make widening circles round
Lucifer. Advance! [us.
Cain. And thou!
Lucifer. Fear not—without me thou
Couldst not have gone beyond thy world. On! on! [*They disappear through the clouds.*

SCENE II.—*Hades.*

Enter LUCIFER *and* CAIN.

Cain. How silent and how vast are these dim worlds! [peopled
For they seem more than one, and yet more
Than the huge brilliant luminous orbs which
So thickly in the upper air, that I [swung
Had deem'd them rather the bright populace
Of some all unimaginable Heaven,
Than things to be inhabited themselves,
But that on drawing near them I beheld
Their swelling into palpable immensity [on,
Of matter, which seem'd made for life to dwell
Rather than life itself. But here, all is
So shadowy and so full of twilight, that
It speaks of a day past.
Lucifer. It is the realm
Of death.—Wouldst have it present?
Cain. Till I know
That which it really is, I cannot answer.
But if it be as I have heard my father
Deal out in his long homilies, 'tis a thing—
O God! I dare not think on't! Cursed be
He who invented life that leads to death!
Or the dull mass of life, that, being life,
Could not retain, but needs must forfeit it—
Even for the innocent!
Lucifer. Dost thou curse thy father?
Cain. Cursed he not me in giving me my birth?
Cursed he not me before my birth, in daring
To pluck the fruit forbidden?
Lucifer. Thou say'st well:
The curse is mutual 'twixt thy sire and thee—
But for thy sons and brother?
Cain. Let them share it
With me, their sire and brother! What else is
Bequeath'd to me? I leave them my inherit-
Oh, ye interminable gloomy realms [ance.
Of swimming shadows and enormous shapes,
Some fully shown, some indistinct, and all
Mighty and melancholy—what are ye?
Live ye, or have ye lived?
Lucifer. Somewhat of both.
Cain. Then what is death?
Lucifer. What? Hath not He who made ye
Said 'tis another life?
Cain. Till now He hath
Said nothing, save that all shall die.
Lucifer. Perhaps
He one day will unfold that further secret.
Cain. Happy the day!
Lucifer. Yes; happy! when unfolded
Through agonies unspeakable, and clogg'd
With agonies eternal, to innumerable
Yet unborn myriads of unconscious atoms,
All to be animated for this only! [which I see
Cain. What are these mighty phantoms
Floating around me?—They wear not the form
Of intelligences I have seen
Round our regretted and unenter'd Eden.
Nor wear the form of man as I have view'd it
In Adam's, and in Abel's, and in mine,
Nor in my sister-bride's, nor in my children's:
And yet they have an aspect, which, though not
Of men nor angels, looks like something which,
If not the last, rose higher than the first,
Haughty, and high, and beautiful, and full
Of seeming strength, but of inexplicable
Shape; for I never saw such. They bear not
The wing of seraph, nor the face of man,
Nor form of mightiest brute, nor aught that is
Now breathing; mighty yet beautiful
As the most beautiful and mighty which
Live, and yet so unlike them, that I scarce
Can call them living.
Lucifer. Yet they lived.
Cain. Where?
Lucifer. Where
Thou livest.
Cain. When?
Lucifer. On what thou callest earth
They did inhabit.

Cain. Adam is the first. [to be
Lucifer. Of thine I grant thee—but too mean
The last of these.
Cain. And what are they?
Lucifer. That which
Thou shalt be.
Cain. But what *were* they?
Lucifer. Living, high,
Intelligent, good, great, and glorious things,
As much superior unto all thy sire,
Adam, could e'er have been in Eden, as
The sixty-thousandth generation shall be,
In its dull damp degeneracy, to [judge
Thee and thy son:—and how weak they are,
By thy own flesh.
Cain. Ah me! and did *they* perish?
Lucifer. Yes, from their earth, as thou wilt fade from thine.
Cain. But was *mine* theirs?
Lucifer. It was.
Cain. But not as now.
It is too little and too lowly to
Sustain such creatures.
Lucifer. True, it was more glorious.
Cain. And wherefore did it fall?
Lucifer. Ask Him who fells.
Cain. But how?
Lucifer. By a most crushing and inexorable
Destruction and disorder of the elements,
Which struck a world to chaos, as a chaos
Subsiding has struck out a world: such things,
Though rare in time, are frequent in eternity—
Pass on, and gaze upon the past. [ity—
Cain. 'Tis awful!
Lucifer. And true. Behold these phantoms!
Material, as thou art. [they were once
Cain. And I must be
Like them? [that.
Lucifer. Let Him who made thee answer
I show thee what thy predecessors are,
And what they *were* thou feel'st, in degree
Inferior as thy petty feelings and
Thy pettier portion of the immortal part
Of high intelligence and earthly strength.
What ye in common have with what they had
Is life, and what ye *shall* have—death; the
Of your poor attributes is such as suits [rest
Reptiles engender'd out of the subsiding
Slime of a mighty universe, crush'd into
A scarcely-yet shaped planet, peopled with
Things whose enjoyment was to be in blindness—
A Paradise of Ignorance, from which [ness—
Knowledge was barr'd as poison. But behold
What these superior beings are or were;
Or, if it irk thee, turn thee back and till [ty.
The earth, thy task—I'll waft thee there in safe-
Cain. No; I'll stay here.
Lucifer. How long?
Cain. Forever! Since
I must one day return here from the earth,
I rather would remain; I am sick of all
The dust has shown me—let me dwell in shadows.
Lucifer. It cannot be: thou thou now beholdest
A vision that which is reality. [be
To make thyself fit for this dwelling, thou
Must pass through what the things thou seest have pass'd—
The gates of death.
Cain. By what gate have we enter'd
Even now?
Lucifer. By mine! But, plighted to return,
My spirit buoys thee up to breathe in regions
Where all is breathless save thyself. Gaze on;
But do not think to dwell here till thine hour
Is come.
Cain. And these, too; can they ne'er repass
To earth again?
Lucifer. *Their* earth is gone forever—
So changed by its convulsion, they would not
Be conscious to a single present spot
Of its new scarcely harden'd surface—'twas—
Oh, what a beautiful world it *was!*
Cain. And is.
It is not with the earth, though I must till it,
I feel at war, but that I may not profit
By what it bears of beautiful, untoiling,
Nor gratify my thousand swelling thoughts
With knowledge, nor allay my thousand fears
Of death and life.
Lucifer. What thy world is, thou seest,
But canst not comprehend the shadow of
That which it was.
Cain. And these enormous creatures,
Phantoms inferior in intelligence [pass'd,
(At least so seeming) to the things we have
Resembling somewhat the wild habitants
Of the deep woods of earth, the hugest which
Roar nightly in the forest, but tenfold
In magnitude and terror; taller than
The cherub-guarded wall of Eden, with
Eyes flashing like the fiery swords which fence them,
And tusks projecting like the trees stripp'd of
Their bark and branches—what were they?
Lucifer. That which
The Mammoth is in thy world: but these lie
By myriads underneath its surface.
Cain. But
None on it?
Lucifer. No: for thy frail race to war
With them would render the curse on it useless—
'Twould be destroy'd so early. [less—
Cain. But why *war?*
Lucifer. You have forgotten the denunciation [all things,
Which drove your race from Eden—war with
And death to all things, and disease to most things, [fruits
And pangs, and bitterness; these were the
Of the forbidden tree.
Cain. But animals—
Did they, too, eat of it, that they must die?
Lucifer. Your Maker told ye, *they* were made for you, [doom
As you for Him.—You would not have their
Superior to your own? Had Adam not
Fallen, all had stood.
Cain. Alas, the hopeless wretches!
They too must share my sire's fate, like his sons, [apple;
Like them, too, without having shared the

Like them, too, without the so dear-bought *knowledge!*
It was a lying tree—for we *know* nothing.
At least it *promised knowledge* at the *price*
Of death—but *knowledge* still: but what *knows* man? [knowledge:
Lucifer. It may be death leads to the *highest*
And being of all things the sole thing certain,
At least leads to the *surest* science; therefore
The tree was true, though deadly.
Cain. These dim realms!
I see them, but I know them not.
Lucifer. Because
Thy hour is afar, and matter cannot
Comprehend spirit wholly—but 'tis something
To know there are such realms.
Cain. We knew already
That there was death.
Lucifer. —But not what was beyond it.
Cain. Nor know I now.
Lucifer. Thou knowest that there is
A state, and many states beyond thine own—
And this thou knewest not this morn.
Cain. But all
Seems dim and shadowy.
Lucifer. Be content; it will
Seem clearer to thine immortality.
Cain. And yon immeasurable liquid space
Of glorious azure which floats on beyond us,
Which looks, like water, and which I should
The river which flows out of Paradise [deem
Past my own dwelling, but that it is bankless
And boundless, and of ethereal hue—
What is it?
Lucifer. There is still some such on earth,
Although inferior, and thy children shall
Dwell near it—'tis the phantasm of an ocean.
Cain. 'Tis like another world; a liquid sun—
And those subordinate creatures sporting o'er
Its shining surface.
Lucifer. Are its inhabitants;
The past leviathans.
Cain. And yon immense
Serpent, which rears his dripping mane and [cedar
vasty
Head ten times higher than the haughtiest
Forth from the abyss, looking as he could coil
Himself around the orbs we lately look'd on—
Is he not of the kind which bask beneath
The tree in Eden?
Lucifer. Eve, thy mother, best
Can tell what shape of serpent tempted her.
Cain. This seems too terrible. No doubt
Had more of beauty. [the other
Lucifer. Hast thou ne'er beheld him?
Cain. Many of the same kind (at least so call'd),
But never that precisely which persuaded
The fatal fruit, nor even of the same aspect.
Lucifer. Your father saw him not?
Cain. No; 'twas my mother
Who tempted him—she tempted by the serpent. [thy sons' wives,
Lucifer. Good man! whene'er thy wife, or
Tempt thee or them to aught that's new or strange,
Be sure thou seest first who hath tempted *them.*
Cain. Thy precept comes too late; there is
For serpents to tempt woman to. [no more
Lucifer. But there
Are some things still which woman may tempt man to, [it!
And man tempt woman:—let thy sons look to
My counsel is a kind one: for 'tis even
Given chiefly at my own expense: 'tis true,
'Twill not be follow'd, so there's little lost.
Cain. I understand not this.
Lucifer. The happier thou!—
Thy world and thou are still too young! Thou thinkest
Thyself most wicked and unhappy; is it
Not so?
Cain. For crime, I know not; but for pain
I have felt much.
Lucifer. First-born of the first man!
Thy present state of sin—and thou art evil—
Of sorrow—and thou sufferest—are both Eden
In all its innocence compared to what
Thou shortly may'st be; and that state again
In its redoubled wretchedness, a Paradise
To what thy sons' sons' sons, accumulating
In generations like to dust (which they
In fact but add to), shall endure and do.—
Now let us back to earth!
Cain. And wherefore didst thou
Lead me here only to inform me this?
Lucifer. Was not thy quest for knowledge?
Cain. Yes; as being
The road to happiness.
Lucifer. If truth be so,
Thou hast it.
Cain. Then my father's God did well
When He prohibited the fatal tree. [ing it.
Lucifer. But had done better in not plant-
But ignorance of evil doth not save
From evil; it must still roll on the same,
A part of all things.
Cain. Not of all things. No:
I'll not believe it—for I thirst for good.
Lucifer. And who and what doth not? *Who* covets evil
For its own bitter sake?—*None*—nothing! 'tis
The leaven of all life, and lifelessness.
Cain. Within those glorious orbs which we beheld,
Distant, and dazzling, and innumerable,
Ere we came down into this phantom realm,
Ill cannot come: they are too beautiful.
Lucifer. Thou hast seen them from afar—
Cain. And what of that?
Distance can but diminish glory—they
When nearer, must be more ineffable.
Lucifer. Approach the things of earth most beautiful,
And judge their beauty near.
Cain. I have done this—
The loveliest thing I know is loveliest nearest.
Lucifer. Then there must be delusion.—What is that,
Which being nearest to thine eyes is still
More beautiful than beauteous things remote?

Cain. My sister Adah.—All the stars of heaven,
The deep blue moon of night, lit by an orb
Which looks a spirit, or a spirit's world—
The hues of twilight—the sun's gorgeous coming—
His setting indescribable, which fills
My eyes with pleasant tears, as I behold
Him sink, and feel my heart float softly with
Along that western paradise of clouds— [him
The forest shade—the green bough—the bird's voice—
The vesper bird's, which seems to sing of love,
And mingles with the song of cherubim,
As the day closes over Eden's walls;—
All these are nothing, to my eyes and heart,
Like Adah's face: I turn from earth and
To gaze on it. [heaven

Lucifer. 'Tis fair as frail mortality,
In the first dawn and bloom of young creation,
And earliest embraces of earth's parents
Can make its offspring; still it is delusion.

Cain. You think so, being not her brother.

Lucifer. Mortal!
My brotherhood's with those who have no children. [with us.

Cain. Then thou canst have no fellowship

Lucifer. It may be that thine own shall be
But if thou dost possess a beautiful [for me.
Being beyond all beauty in thine eyes,
Why art thou wretched?

Cain. Why do I exist?
Why art *thou* wretched? why are all things so?
Even He who made us must be, as the maker
Of things unhappy! To produce destruction
Can surely never be the task of joy,
And yet my sire says He's omnipotent:
Then why is evil—He being good? I ask'd
This question of my father; and he said,
Because this evil only was the path [out
To good. Strange good that must arise from
Its deadly opposite. I lately saw
A lamb stung by a reptile: the poor suckling
Lay foaming on the earth, beneath the vain
And piteous bleating of its restless dam; [to
My father pluck'd some herbs, and laid them
The wound; and by degrees the helpless wretch
Resumed its careless life, and rose to drain
The mother's milk, who o'er it tremulous
Stood licking its reviving limbs with joy.
Behold, my son! said Adam, how from evil
Springs good!

Lucifer. What didst thou answer?

Cain. Nothing; for
He is my father: but I thought, that 'twere
A better portion for the animal
Never to have been *stung at all*, than to
Purchase renewal of its little life
With agonies unutterable, though
Dispell'd by antidotes.

Lucifer. But as thou saidst
Of all beloved things thou lovest her
Who shared thy mother's milk, and giveth hers
Unto thy children—

Cain. Most assuredly:
What should I be without her?

Lucifer. What am I?

Cain. Dost thou love nothing?

Lucifer. What does thy God love?

Cain. All things, my father says; but I con-
I see it not in their allotment here. [fess

Lucifer. And therefore thou canst not see if *I* love
Or no, except some vast and general purpose,
To which particular things must melt like

Cain. Slows! what are they? [snows.

Lucifer. Be happier in not knowing
What thy remoter offspring must encounter;
But bask beneath the clime which knows no winter. [thyself?

Cain. But dost thou not love something like

Lucifer. And dost thou love *thyself?*

Cain. Yes, but love more
What makes my feelings more endurable,
And is more than myself, because I love it.

Lucifer. Thou lovest it, because 'tis beauti-
As was the apple in thy mother's eye; [ful,
And when it ceases to be so, thy love
Will cease, like any other appetite.

Cain. Cease to be beautiful! how can that

Lucifer. With time. [be?

Cain. But time has past, and hitherto
Even Adam and my mother both are fair:
Not fair like Adah and the seraphim—
But very fair.

Lucifer. All that must pass away
In them and her.

Cain. I'm sorry for it; but
Cannot conceive my love for her the less.
And when her beauty disappears, methinks
He who creates all beauty will lose more
Than me in seeing perish such a work.

Lucifer. I pity thee, who lovest what must perish.

Cain. And I thee, who lov'st nothing.

Lucifer. And thy brother—
Sits he not near thy heart?

Cain. Why should he not?

Lucifer. Thy father loves him well—so does

Cain. And so do I. [thy God.

Lucifer. 'Tis well and meekly done.

Cain. Meekly!

Lucifer. He is the second born of flesh,
And is his mother's favorite.

Cain. Let him keep
Her favor, since the serpent was the first
To win it.

Lucifer. And his father's?

Cain. What is that
To me? should I not love that which all love?

Lucifer. And the Jehovah—the indulgent Lord,
And bounteous planter of barr'd Paradise—
He, too, looks smilingly on Abel.

Cain. I
Ne'er saw Him, and I know not if He smiles.

Lucifer. But you have seen His angels.

Cain. Rarely.

Lucifer. But
Sufficiently to see they love your brother;

His sacrifices are acceptable.
Cain. So be they! wherefore speak to me of this? [ere now.
Lucifer. Because thou hast thought of this
Cain. And if I *have* thought, why recall a thought that—[*he pauses, as agitated*]—Spirit!
Here we are in *thy* world: speak not of *mine*.
Thou hast shown me wonders: thou hast shown me those
Mighty pre-Adamites who walk'd the earth
Of which ours is the wreck; thou hast pointed out
Myriads of starry worlds, of which our own
Is the dim and remote companion, in
Infinity of life; thou hast shown me shadows
Of that existence with the dreaded name
Which my sire brought us—Death; thou hast shown me much—
But not all: show me where Jehovah dwells,
In His especial Paradise—or *thine:*
Where is it?
Lucifer. *Here*, and o'er all space.
Cain. But ye
Have some allotted dwelling—as all things;
Clay has its earth, and other worlds their ten-
All temporary breathing creatures their [ants;
Peculiar element; and things which have
Long ceased to breathe *our* breath, have theirs, thou say'st;
And the Jehovah and thyself have thine—
Ye do not dwell together?
Lucifer. No, we reign
Together: but our dwellings are asunder.
Cain. Would there were only one of ye! Perchance
An unity of purpose might make union
In elements which seem now jarr'd in storms.
How came ye, being spirits, wise and infinite,
To separate? Are ye not as brethren in
Your essence, and your nature, and your glory?
Lucifer. Art thou not Abel's brother?
Cain. We are brethren,
And so we shall remain: but were it not so,
Is spirit like to flesh? can it fall out?
Infinity with Immortality?
Jarring and turning space to misery-
For what?
Lucifer. To reign.
Cain. Did ye not tell me that
Ye are both eternal?
Lucifer. Yea!
Cain. And what I have seen,
Yon blue immensity, is boundless?
Lucifer. Ay.
Cain. And cannot ye both *reign*, then?—is there not
Enough?—why should ye differ?
Lucifer. We *both* reign.
Cain. But one of you makes evil.
Lucifer. Which?
Cain. Thou! for
If thou canst do man good, why dost thou not?
Lucifer. And why not He who made? *I* made ye not:
Ye are *His* creatures, and not mine.
Cain. Then leave us
His creatures, as thou say'st we are, or show
Thy dwelling, or His dwelling. [me
Lucifer. I could show thee
Both; but the time will come thou shalt see
Of them forevermore. [one
Cain. And why not now?
Lucifer. Thy human mind had scarcely grasp to gather
The little I have shown thee into calm
And clear thought; and thou wouldst go on aspiring [*ciples!*
To the great double Mysteries! the *two Prin-*
And gaze upon them on their secret thrones!
Dust! limit thy ambition; for to see
Either of these, would be for thee to perish!
Cain. And let me perish, so I see them!
Lucifer. There
The son of her who snatch'd the apple spake!
But thou wouldst only perish, and not see
That sight is for the other state. [them,
Cain. Of death!
Lucifer. That is the prelude.
Cain. Then I dread it less,
Now that I know it leads to something definite.
Lucifer. And now I will convey thee to thy world,
Where thou shalt multiply the race of Adam,
Eat, drink, toil, tremble, laugh, weep, sleep, and die. [things
Cain. And to what end have I beheld these
Which thou hast shown me?
Lucifer. Didst thou not require
Knowledge? And have I not, in what I
Taught thee to know thyself? [show'd,
Cain. Alas! I seem
Nothing.
Lucifer. And this should be the human sum
Of knowledge, to know mortal nature's nothingness:
Bequeath that science to thy children, and
'Twill spare them many tortures.
Cain. Haughty spirit!
Thou speak'st it proudly; but thyself, though
Hast a superior. [proud,
Lucifer. No! by heaven, which He
Holds, and the abyss, and the immensity
Of worlds and life, which I hold with Him—
I have a victor—true; but no superior. [No!
Homage He has from all—but none from me:
I battle it against Him, as I battled
In highest heaven. Through all eternity
And the unfathomable gulfs of Hades,
And the interminable realms of space,
And the infinity of endless ages,
All, all, will I dispute! And world by world,
And star star, and universe by universe,
Shall tremble in the balance, till the great
Conflict shall cease, if ever it shall cease,
Which it ne'er shall, till He or I be quench'd!
And what can quench our immortality,
Or mutual and irrevocable hate?
He as a conqueror will call the conquer'd *Evil;* but what will be the *good* He gives?
Were I the victor, *His* works would be deem'd

The only evil ones. And you, ye new
And scarce-born mortals, what have been His
To you already, in your little world? [gifts
Cain. But few, and some of those but bitter.
Lucifer. Back
With me, then, to thine earth, and try the rest
Of His celestial boons to you and yours.
Evil and good are things in their own essence,
And not made good or evil by the giver;
But if He gives you good—so call Him; if
Evil springs from *Him*, do not name it *mine*,
Till ye know better its true fount; and judge
Not by words, though of spirits, but the fruits
Of your existence, such as it must be.
One good gift has the fatal apple given—
Your *reason;*—let it not be over-sway'd
By tyrannous threats to force you into faith
'Gainst all external sense and inward feeling:
Think and endure—and form an inner world
In your own bosom—where the outward fails;
So shall you nearer be the spiritual
Nature, and war triumphant with your own.
[*They disappear.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*The Earth near Eden, as in Act I.*

Enter CAIN *and* ADAH.

Adah. Hush! tread softly, Cain.
Cain. I will; but wherefore?
Adah. Our little Enoch sleeps upon yon bed
Of leaves, beneath the cypress.
Cain. Cypress! 'tis
A gloomy tree, which looks as if it mourn'd
O'er what it shadows; wherefore didst thou
For our child's canopy? [choose it
Adah. Because its branches
Shut out the sun like night, and therefore
Fitting to shadow slumber. [seem'd
Cain. Ay, the last—
And longest; but no matter—lead me to him.
[*They go up to the child.*
How lovely he appears! his little cheeks,
In their pure incarnation, vying with
The rose leaves strewn beneath them.
Adah. And his lips, too,
How beautifully parted! No; you shall not
Kiss him, at least not now: he will awake soon—
His hour of mid-day rest is nearly over;
But it were pity to disturb him till
'Tis closed.
Cain. You have said well; I will contain
My heart till then. He smiles and sleeps!—Sleep on
And smile, thou little, young inheritor
Of a world scarce less young: sleep on, and smile! [cheering
Thine are the hours and days when both are
And innocent! *thou* hast not pluck'd the fruit— [the time
Thou know'st not thou art naked! Must
Come thou shalt be amerced for sins unknown,
Which were not mine nor thine? But now sleep on!
His cheeks are reddening into deeper smiles,
And shining lids are trembling o'er his long
Lashes, dark as the cypress which waves o'er them;
Half open, from beneath them the clear blue
Laughs out, although in slumber. He must dream—
Of what? Of Paradise!—Ay! dream of it,
My disinherited boy! 'Tis but a dream;
For never more thyself, thy sons, nor fathers,
Shall walk in that forbidden place of joy!
Adah. Dear Cain! Nay, do not whisper o'er our son
Such melancholy yearnings o'er the past:
Why wilt thou always mourn for Paradise?
Can we not make another?
Cain. Where?
Adah. Here, or
Where'er thou wilt: where'er thou art I feel not
The want of this so much-regretted Eden.
Have I not thee, our boy, our sire, and brother,
And Zillah—our sweet sister, and our Eve,
To whom we owe so much besides our birth?
Cain. Yes—death, too, is amongst the debts we owe her. [drew thee hence,
Adah. Cain! that proud spirit, who with-
Hath sadden'd thine still deeper. I had hoped [held,
The promised wonders which thou hast be-
Visions, thou say'st, of past and present worlds,
Would have composed thy mind into the calm
Of a contented knowledge; but I see [him,
Thy guide hath done thee evil: still I thank
And can forgive him all, that he so soon
Hath given thee back to us.
Cain. So soon?
Adah. 'Tis scarcely
Two hours since ye departed: two *long* hours
To *me*, but only *hours* upon the sun.
Cain. And yet I have approach'd that sun, and seen [more
Worlds which he once shone on, and never
Shall light; and worlds he never lit: me-
Years had roll'd o'er my absence. [thought
Adah. Hardly hours.
Cain. The mind, then, hath capacity of time,
And measures it by that which it beholds,
Pleasing or painful; little or almighty.
I had beheld the immemorable works
Of endless beings; skirr'd extinguish'd worlds;
And, gazing on eternity, methought
I had borrow'd more by a few drops of ages
From its immensity; but now I feel
My littleness again. Well said the spirit,
That I was nothing.
Adah. Wherefore said he so?
Jehovah said not that.
Cain. No; *He* contents Him
With making us the *nothing* which we are;
And after flattering dust with glimpses of
Eden and immortality, resolves

It back to dust again—for what?
Adah. Thou know'st—
Even for our parent's error.
Cain. What is that
To us? they sinn'd, then *let them* die!
Adah. Thou hast not spoken well, nor is that thought
Thy own, but of the spirit who was with thee.
Would *I* could die for them, so *they* might live!
Cain. Why, so say I—provided that one
Might satiate the insatiable of life, [victim
And that our little rosy sleeper there
Might never taste of death nor human sorrow,
Nor hand it down to those who spring from him. [ment one day
Adah. How know we that some such atone-
May not redeem the race?
Cain. By sacrificing
The harmless for the guilty? What atonement
Was there? Why, *we* are innocent; what have
Done, that we must be victims for a deed [we
Before our birth, or need have victims to
Atone for this mysterious, nameless sin—
If it be such a sin to search for knowledge?
Adah. Alas! thou sinnest now, my Cain:
Sound impious in mine ears. [thy words
Cain. Then leave me!
Adah. Never,
Though thy God left thee.
Cain. Say, what have we here?
Adah. Two altars, which our brother Abel made
During thine absence, whereupon to offer
A sacrifice to God on thy return. [ready
Cain. And how knew *he* that *I* would be so
With the burnt-offerings, which he daily brings
With a meek brow, whose base humility
Shows more of fear than worship, as a bribe
To the Creator?
Adah. Surely, 'tis well done.
Cain. One altar may suffice; I have no offering [beautiful
Adah. The fruits of the earth, the early
Blossom and bud, and bloom of flowers and fruits,
These are a goodly offering to the Lord,
Given with a gentle and contrite spirit.
Cain. I have toil'd, and till'd, and sweaten in the sun,
According to the curse:—must I do more?
For what should I be gentle? for a war
With all the elements ere they will yield [ful?
The bread we eat? For what must I be grate-
For being dust, and grovelling in the dust,
Till I return to dust? If I am nothing—
For nothing shall I be an hypocrite, [should I
And seem well pleased with pain? For what
Be contrite? for my father's sin, already
Expiate with what we all have undergone,
And to be more than expiated by
The ages prophesied, upon our seed. [there,
Little deems our young blooming sleeper
The germs of eternal misery
To myriads are within him! Better 'twere
I snatch'd him in his sleep, and dash'd him 'gainst
The rocks, than let him live to—
Adah. Oh, my God!
Touch not the child—my child! *thy* child! O Cain! [the power
Cain. Fear not! for all the stars, and all
Which sways them, I would not accost yon infant
With ruder greeting than a father's kiss.
Adah. Then why so awful in thy speech?
Cain. I said,
'Twere better that he ceased to live, than give
Life to so much of sorrow as he must
Endure, and, harder still, bequeath; but since
That saying jars you, let us only say—
'Twere better that he never had been born.
Adah. Oh, do not say so! Where were then the joys,
The mother's joys of watching, nourishing,
And loving him? Soft! he awakes. Sweet Enoch! [*She goes to the child.*
O Cain! look on him; see how full of life,
Of strength, of bloom, of beauty and of joy,
How like to me—how like to thee, when gentle,
For *then* we are *all* alike: is't not so, Cain?
Mother, and sire, and son, our features are
Reflected in each other; as they are
In the clear waters, when *they* are *gentle*, and
When *thou* art *gentle*. Love us, then, my Cain!
And love thyself for our sakes, for we love thee. [arms,
Look! how he laughs and stretches out his
And opens wide his blue eyes upon thine,
To hail his father; while his little form
Flutters as wing'd with joy. Talk not of pain!
The childless cherubs well might envy thee
The pleasures of a parent! Bless him, Cain!
As yet he hath no words to thank thee, but
His heart will and thine own too.
Cain. Bless thee, boy!
If that a mortal's blessing may avail thee,
To save thee from the serpent's curse!
Adah. It shall.
Surely a father's blessing may avert
A reptile's subtlety.
Cain. Of that I doubt;
But bless him ne'ertheless.
Adah. Our brother comes.
Cain. Thy brother Abel.

Enter ABEL.

Abel. Welcome, Cain! My brother,
The peace of God be on thee!
Cain. Abel, hail!
Abel. Our sister tells me that thou hast been wandering,
In high communion with a spirit, far
Beyond our wonted range. Was he of those
We have seen and spoken with, like to our father?
Cain. No.
Abel. Why then commune with him? he may be
A foe to the Most High. [friend to man.
Cain. And
Has the Most High been so—if so you term Him?

Abel. Term Him!—your words are strange
to-day, my brother.
My sister Adah, leave us for awhile—
We mean to sacrifice.
Adah. Farewell, my Cain;
But first embrace thy son. May his soft spirit,
And Abel's pious ministry, recall thee
To peace and holiness!
[*Exit* ADAH, *with her child.*
Abel. Where hast thou been?
Cain. I know not.
Abel. Nor what thou hast seen?
Cain. The dead,
The immortal, the unbounded, the omnipo-
The overpowering mysteries of space— [tent,
The innumerable worlds that were and are—
A whirlwind of such overwhelming things,
Suns, moons, and earths, upon their loud-
voiced spheres,
Singing in thunder round me, as have made me
Unfit for mortal converse: leave me, Abel.
Abel. Thine eyes are flashing with unnatu-
ral light,—
Thy cheek is flush'd with an unnatural hue,—
Thy words are fraught with an unnatural
What may this mean? [sound:—
Cain. It means—I pray thee, leave me.
Abel. Not till we have pray'd and sacrificed
together.
Cain. Abel, I pray thee, sacrifice alone—
Jehovah loves thee well.
Abel. *Both* well, I hope.
Cain. But thee the better: I care not for
that,
Thou art fitter for his worship than I am;
Revere Him, then—but let it be alone—
At least without me.
Abel. Brother, I should ill
Deserve the name of our great father's son,
If, as my elder, I revered thee not,
And in the worship of our God call'd not
On thee to join me, and precede me in
Our priesthood—'tis thy place.
Cain. But I have ne'er
Asserted it.
Abel. The more my grief; I pray thee
To do so now: thy soul seems laboring in
Some strong delusion; it will calm thee.
Cain. No;
Nothing can calm me more. *Calm!* say I?
Never
Knew I what calm was in the soul, although
I have seen the elements still'd. My Abel, leave
Or let me leave thee to thy pious purpose. [me!
Abel. Neither: we must perform our task
Spurn me not. [together.
Cain. If it must be so—well, then,
What shall I do?
Abel. Choose one of these two altars.
Cain. Choose for me: they to me are so
And stone. [much turf
Abel. Choose thou!
Cain. I have chosen.
Abel. 'Tis the highest,
And suits thee, as the elder. Now prepare
Thine offerings.
Cain. Where are thine?
Abel. Behold them here—
The firstlings of the flock, and fat thereof—
A shepherd's humble offering.
Cain. I have no flocks;
I am a tiller of the ground, and must
Yield what it yieldeth to my toil—its fruit:
[*He gathers fruits.*
Behold them in their various bloom and ripe-
ness.
[*They dress their altars and kindle a flame upon them.*
Abel. My brother, as the elder, offer first
Thy prayer and thanksgiving with sacrifice.
Cain. No—I am new to this; lead thou the
And I will follow—as I may. [way,
Abel [*kneeling*]. O God!
Who made us, and who breathed the breath
of life
Within our nostrils, who hath blessed us,
And spared, despite our father's sin, to make
His children all lost, as they might have been,
Had not Thy justice been so temper'd with
The mercy which is Thy delight, as to
Accord a pardon like a Paradise,
Compared with our great crimes: Sole Lord
Of good, and glory, and eternity; [of light!
Without whom all were evil, and with whom
No ing can err, except to some good end
Of ine omnipotent benevolence—
Inscrutable, but still to be fulfill'd— [herds'
Accept from out thy humble first of shep-
First of the first-born flocks—an offering—
In itself nothing—as what offering can be
Aught unto Thee?—but yet accept it for
The thanksgiving of him who spreads it in
The face of Thy high heaven, bowing his own
Even to the dust, of which he is, in honor
Of Thee, and of Thy name, forevermore!
Cain [*standing erect during this speech*].
Spirit! whate'er or whoso'er Thou art,
Omnipotent, it may be—and, if good, [evil;
Shown in the exemption of Thy deeds from
Jehovah upon earth! and God in heaven!
And it may be with other names, because
Thine attributes seem many as Thy works:—
If Thou must be propitiated with prayers,
Take them! If Thou must be induced with
altars,
And soften'd with a sacrifice, receive them!
Two beings here erect them unto Thee.
If Thou lov'st blood, the shepherd's shrine,
which smokes
On my right hand, hath shed it for Thy service
In the first of his flock, whose limbs now reek
In sanguinary incense to Thy skies;
Or if the sweet and blooming fruits of earth,
And milder seasons, which the unstain'd turf
I spread them on now offers in the face
Of the broad sun which ripen'd them, may
seem
Good to Thee, inasmuch as they have not
Suffer'd in limb or life, and rather form
A sample of Thy works, than supplication
To look on ours! If a shrine without a victim
And altar without gore, may win thy favor,

Look on it! And for him who dresseth it,
He is—such as Thou mad'st him; and seeks nothing
Which must be won by kneeling: if he's evil,
Strike him! Thou art omnipotent, and mayst—
For what can he oppose? If he be good, [all
Strike him, or spare him, as Thou wilt! since Rests upon Thee, and good and evil seem
To have no power themselves, save in Thy will;
And whether that be good or ill I know not,
Not being omnipotent, nor fit to judge
Omnipotence, but merely to endure
Its mandate; which thus far I have endured.

[*The fire upon the altar of* ABEL *kindles into a column of the brightest flame, and ascends to heaven; while a whirlwind throws down the altar of* CAIN, *and scatters the fruits abroad upon the earth.*

Abel [*kneeling*]. Oh, brother, pray! Jehovah's wroth with thee.

Cain. Why so?

Abel. Thy fruits are scatter'd on the earth.

Cain. From earth they came, to earth let them return. [summer;
Their seed will bear fresh fruit there ere the
Thy burnt flesh-offering prospers better; see
How heaven licks up the flames, when thick with blood!

Abel. Think not upon my offering's acceptance,
But make another of thine own before
It is too late.

Cain. I will build no more altars,
Nor suffer any—

Abel [*rising*]. Cain! what meanest thou?

Cain. To cast down yon vile flatterer of the clouds,
The smoky harbinger of thy dull prayers—
Thine altar, with its blood of lambs and kids,
Which fed on milk, to be destroy'd in blood.

Abel [*opposing him*]. Thou shalt not!—add not impious works to impious
Words! let that altar stand—'tis hallow'd now
By the immortal pleasure of Jehovah,
In His acceptance of the victims.

Cain. *His!*
His pleasure! what was His high pleasure in
The fumes of scorching flesh and smoking blood,
To the pain of the bleating mothers, which
Still yearn for their dead offspring? or the pangs
Of the sad ignorant victims underneath
Thy pious knife? give way! this bloody record
Shall not stand in the sun to shame creation!

Abel. Brother, give back! thou shalt not touch my altar
With violence: if that thou wilt adopt it
To try another sacrifice, 'tis thine.

Cain. Another sacrifice! Give way, or else
That sacrifice may be—

Abel. What mean'st thou?

Cain. Give—
Give way!—thy God loves blood!—then look
Give way, ere he hath *more!* [to it:—

Abel. In *His* great name,
I stand between thee and the shrine which
Had His acceptance. [hath

Cain. If thou lov'st thyself,
Stand back till I have strew'd this turf along
Its native soil:—else—

Abel [*opposing him*]. I love God far more
Than life.

Cain [*striking him with a brand on the temples, which he snatches from the altar*]. Then take thy life unto thy God,
Since He loves lives. [brother?

Abel [*falls*]. What hast thou done, my *Cain.* Brother!

Abel. O God! receive Thy servant, and
Forgive his slayer, for he knew not what
He did—Cain, give me—give me thy hand;
Poor Zillah— [and tell

Cain [*after a moment's stupefaction*]. *My* hand! 'tis all red, and with—
What? [*A long pause.—Looking slowly round.*
Where am I? alone! Where's Abel? where
Cain? Can it be that I am he? My brother,
Awake!—why liest thou so on the green earth?
'Tis not the hour of slumber;—why so pale?
What, hast thou!—thou wert full of life this morn!
Abel! I pray thee, mock me not! I smote
Too fiercely, but not fatally. Ah, why
Wouldst thou oppose me? This is mockery,
And only done to daunt me:—'twas a blow,—
And but a blow. Stir—stir—nay, only stir!
Why, so—that's well!—thou breath'st! breathe upon me!
O God! O God! [of God?

Abel [*very faintly*]. What's he who speaks

Cain. Thy murderer.

Abel. Then may God forgive him! Cain,
Comfort poor Zillah; she has but one brother
Now. [ABEL *dies.*

Cain. And I none!—Who makes me brotherless?
His eyes are open! then he is not dead!
Death is like sleep; and sleep shuts down our lids. [breathes!
His lips, too, are apart; why, then, he
And yet I feel it not. His heart!—his heart!
Let me see, doth it beat? methinks—No!—
This is a vision, else I am become [no!
The native of another and worse world. [wet;
The earth swims round me; what is this?—'tis
[*Puts his hand to his brow, and then looks at it.*
And yet there are no dews! 'Tis blood—my blood—
My brother's and my own; and shed by me!
Then what have I further to do with life,
Since I have taken life from my own flesh?
But he cannot be dead!—Is silence death?
No; he will wake: then let me watch by him.
Life cannot be so slight, as to be quench'd
Thus quickly!—He hath spoken to me since—
What shall I say to him?—My brother!—No:
He will not answer to that name; for brethren
Smite not each other. Yet—yet—speak to me!
Oh for a word more of that gentle voice,

That I may bear to hear my own again!

Enter Zillah.

Zillah. I heard a heavy sound; what can it be? [What
'Tis Cain; and watching by my husband.
Dost thou there, brother? Doth he sleep?
Oh, heaven! [No, no!
What means this paleness, and yon stream?—
It is not blood; for who would shed his blood?
Abel! what's this?—who hath done this? He moves not; [from mine
He breathes not: and his hands drop down
With stony lifelessness! Ah! cruel Cain!
Why cam'st thou not in time to save him from
This violence? Whatever hath assail'd him,
Thou wert the stronger, and shouldst have stepp'd in [Eve!—
Between him and aggression! Father!—
Adah!—come hither! Death is in the world!

[*Exit* Zillah, *calling on her parents, etc.*

Cain [*solus*]. And who hath brought him there?—I—who abhor [thought
The name of Death so deeply, that the
Empoison'd all my life, before I knew
His aspect—I have led him here, and given
My brother to his cold and still embrace,
As if he would not have asserted his
Inexorable claim without my aid.
I am awake at last—a dreary dream
Had madden'd me;—but *he* shall ne'er awake.

Enter Adam, Eve, Adah, *and* Zillah.

Adam. A voice of woe from Zillah brings me here.—
What do I see?—'Tis true!—My son!—my son!
Woman, behold the serpent's work, and thine!

[*To* Eve.

Eve. Oh! speak not of it now: the serpent's fangs
Are in my heart. My best beloved, Abel!
Jehovah! this is punishment beyond
A mother's sin, to take *him* from me!

Adam. Who
Or what hath done this deed?—Speak, Cain, since thou
Wert present; was it some more hostile angel,
Who walks not with Jehovah? or some wild
Brute of the forest?

Eve. Ah! a livid light
Breaks through, as from a thunder-cloud! Yon brand,
Massy and bloody, snatch'd from off the altar,
And black with smoke, and red with—

Adam. Speak, my son!
Speak, and assure us, wretched as we are,
That we are not more miserable still.

Adah. Speak, Cain! and say it was not *thou!*

Eve. It was.
I see it now—he hangs his guilty head,
And covers his ferocious eyes with hands
Incarnadine.

Adah. Mother, thou dost him wrong—
Cain! clear thee from this horrible accusal,
Which grief wrings from our parent.

Eve. Hear, Jehovah!
May the eternal serpent's curse be on him!
For he was fitter for his seed than ours.
May all his days be desolate! May—

Adah. Hold!
Curse him not, mother, for he is thy son—
Curse him not, mother, for he is my brother,
And my betroth'd.

Eve. He hath left thee no brother—
Zillah no husband—me *no son!*—for thus
I curse him from my sight forevermore!
All bonds I break between us, as he broke
That of his nature, in yon—O death! death!
Why did'st thou not take *me*, who first incurr'd
Why dost thou not do so now? [thee?

Adam. Eve! let not this,
Thy natural grief, lead to impiety!
A heavy doom was long forespoken to us;
And now that it begins let it be borne
In such sort as may show our God, that we
Are faithful servants to His holy will.

Eve [*pointing to* Cain]. *His will!* the will of yon incarnate spirit
Of death, whom I have brought upon the earth
To strew it with the dead. May all the curses
Of life be on him! and his agonies
Drive him forth o'er the wilderness, like us
From Eden, till his children do by him
As he did by his brother! May the swords
And wings of fiery cherubim pursue him
By day and night—snakes spring up in his path— [leaves
Earth's fruits be ashes in his mouth—the
On which he lays his head to sleep be strew'd
With scorpions! May his dreams be of his victim!
His waking a continual dread of death!
May the clear rivers turn to blood, as he
Stoops down to stain them with his raging lip!
My every element shun or change to him!
May he live in the pangs which others die with! [death
And death itself wax something worse than
To him who first acquainted him with man!
Hence, fratricide! henceforth that word is *Cain*,
Through all the coming myriads of mankind,
Who shall abhor thee, though thou wert their sire!
May the grass wither from thy feet! the woods
Deny thee shelter? earth a home! the dust
A grave! the sun his light! and heaven her God! [*Exit* Eve.

Adam. Cain! get thee forth: we dwell no more together.
Depart! and leave the dead to me—I am
Henceforth alone—we never must meet more.

Adah. Oh, part not with him thus, my father: do not
Add thy deep curse to Eve's upon his head!

Adam. I curse him not; his spirit be his curse.
Come, Zillah! [curse.

Zillah. I must watch my husband's corse.

Adam. We will return again, when he is gone
Who hath provided us for this dread office.
Come, Zillah!

Zillah. Yet one kiss on yon pale clay,
And those lips once so warm—my heart! my heart!

[*Exeunt* ADAM *and* ZILLAH *weeping.*

Adah. Cain! thou hast heard, we must go forth. I am ready,
So shall our children be. I will bear Enoch,
And you his sister. Ere the sun declines
Let us depart, nor walk the wilderness
Under the cloud of night.—Nay, speak to me,
To *me*—*thine own.*

Cain. Leave me!

Adah. Why, all have left thee.

Cain. And wherefore lingerest thou? Dost thou not fear
To dwell with one who hath done this?

Adah. I fear
Nothing except to leave thee, much as I
Shrink from the deed which leaves thee brotherless.
I must not speak of this—it is between thee
And the great God.

A Voice from within exclaims, Cain! Cain!

Adah. Hear'st thou that voice?

The Voice within. Cain! Cain!

Adah. It soundeth like an angel's tone

Enter the ANGEL *of the* LORD.

Angel. Where is thy brother Abel?

Cain. Am I then
My brother's keeper?

Angel. Cain! what hast thou done?
The voice of thy slain brother's blood cries out, [art thou
Even from the ground, unto the Lord!—Now
Cursed from the earth, which opened late her mouth [hand.
To drink thy brother's blood from thy rash
Henceforth, when thou shalt till the ground, it shall not
Yield thee her strength: a fugitive shalt thou
Be from this day, and vagabond on earth!

Adah. This punishment is more than he can bear, [earth,
Behold, thou driv'st him from the face of
And from the face of God shall he be hid
A fugitive and vagabond on earth.
'Twill come to pass, that whoso findeth him
Shall slay him.

Cain. Would they could! but who are they
Shall slay me? Where are these on the lone earth
As yet unpeopled?

Angel. Thou hast slain thy brother,
And who shall warrant thee against thy son?

Adah. Angel of Light! be merciful, nor say
That this poor aching breast now nourishes
A murderer in my boy, and of his father.

Angel. Then he would be but what his father is.
Did not the milk of Eve give nutriment
To him thou now seest so besmear'd with blood? [cides,—
The fratricide might well engender parri-
But it shall not be so—the Lord thy God
And mine commandeth me to set His seal
On Cain, so that he may go forth in safety.
Who slayeth Cain, a sevenfold vengeance shall
Be taken on his head. Come hither!

Cain. What
Wouldst thou with me?

Angel. To mark upon thy brow
Exemption from such deeds as thou hast done.

Cain. No, let me die!

Angel. It must not be.

[*The* ANGEL *sets the mark on* CAIN'S *brow.*

Cain. It burns
My brow, but nought to that which is within
Is there more? let me meet it as I may. [it.

Angel. Stern hast thou been and stubborn from the womb, [he
As the ground thou must henceforth till; but
Thou slewest was gentle as the flocks he tended.

Cain. After the fall too soon was I begotten;
Ere yet my mother's mind subsided from
The serpent, and my sire still mourn'd for Eden.
That which I am, I am; I did not seek
For life, nor did I make myself; but could I
With my own death redeem him from the dust—
And why not so? Let him return to-day,
And I lie ghastly! so shall be restored
By God the life to him He loved; and taken
From me a being I ne'er loved to bear.

Angel. Who shall heal the murder? what is done is done;
Go forth! fulfil thy days! and be thy deeds
Unlike the last. [*The* ANGEL *disappears.*

Adah. He's gone, let us go forth;
I hear our little Enoch cry within
Our bower. [for!

Cain. Ah! little knows he what he weeps
And I who have shed blood cannot shed tears!
But the four rivers would not cleanse my soul.*
Think'st thou my boy will bear to look on me?

Adah. If I thought that he would not, I would—

Cain. [*interrupting her*]. No,
No more of threats: we have had too many of
Go to our children; I will follow thee. [them:

Adah. I will not leave thee lonely with the dead;
Let us depart together.

Cain. Oh! thou dead
And everlasting witness! whose unsinking
Blood darkens earth and heaven! what thou *now* art
I know not; but if *thou* seest what *I* am,
I think thou wilt forgive him whom his God
Can ne'er forgive, nor his own soul.—Farewell!
I must not, dare not touch what I have made thee. [drain'd
I, who sprang from the same womb with thee,
The same breast, clasp'd thee often to my
In fondness brotherly and boyish, I [own,

* Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, and Euphrates.—GEN. ii. 1-14. The "four rivers" which flowed round Eden, and consequently the only waters with which Cain was acquainted upon earth.

Can never meet thee more, nor even dare
To do that for thee which thou shouldst have done
For me—compose thy limbs into their grave—
The first grave yet dug for mortality. [earth!
But who hath dug that grave? Oh, earth! Oh,
For all the fruits thou hast render'd to me, I
Give thee back this.—Now for the wilderness!

[ADAH *stoops down and kisses the body of* ABEL.

Adah. A dreary and an early doom, my brother,
Has been thy lot! Of all who mourn for thee,
I alone must not weep. My office is [them;
Henceforth to dry up tears, and not to shed
But yet, of all who mourn, none mourn like me,
Not only for thyself, but him who slew thee.
Now, Cain! I will divide thy burden with thee.
Cain. Eastward from Eden we will take our way:
'Tis the most desolate, and suits my steps.
Adah. Lead! thou shalt be my guide, and may our God
Be thine! Now let us carry forth our children.
Cain. And *he* who lieth there was childless.
Have dried the fountain of a gentle race, [I
Which might have graced his recent marriage couch, [mine,
And might have temper'd this stern blood of
Uniting with our children Abel's offspring!
O Abel!
Adah. Peace be with him!
Cain. But with *me!*—

[*Exeunt.*

HEAVEN AND EARTH:

A MYSTERY.

1821.

FOUNDED ON THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE IN GENESIS, CHAP. VI.: "AND IT CAME TO PASS . . . THAT THE SONS OF GOD SAW THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN THAT THEY WERE FAIR; AND THEY TOOK THEM WIVES OF ALL WHICH THEY CHOSE."

"And woman wailing for her demon lover."—COLERIDGE.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

ANGELS.	MEN.	WOMEN.
SAMIASA.	NOAH AND HIS SONS.	ANAH.
AZAZIEL.	IRAD.	AHOLIBAMAH.
RAPHAEL, *the Archangel.*	JAPHET.	

Chorus of Spirits of the Earth.—Chorus of Mortals.

PART I.

SCENE I.—*A woody and mountainous district near Mount Ararat.—Time, Midnight.*

Enter ANAH *and* AHOLIBAMAH.

Anah. Our father sleeps; it is the hour when
Who love us are accustom'd to descend [they
Through the deep clouds o'er rocky Ararat:—
How my heart beats!
Aho. Let us proceed upon
Our invocation.
Anah. But the stars are hidden.
I tremble.
Aho. So do I, but not with fear
Of aught save their delay.
Anah. My sister, though
I love Azaziel more than—oh, too much!
What was I going to say? my heart grows impious.
Aho. And where is the impiety of loving
Celestial natures?
Anah. But, Aholibamah,
I love our God less since his angel loved me:
This cannot be of good; and though I know not
That I do wrong, I feel a thousand fears
Which are not ominous of right.
Aho. Then wed thee
Unto some son of clay, and toil and spin!
There's Japhet loves thee well, hath loved
Marry, and bring forth dust! [thee long;
Anah. I should have loved
Azaziel not less were he mortal; yet
I am glad he is not. I cannot outlive him.
And when I think that his immortal wings
Will one day hover o'er the sepulchre
Of the poor child of clay which so adored him,
As he adores the Highest, death becomes
Less terrible; but yet I pity him:
His grief will be of ages, or at least
Mine would be such for him, were I the seraph,
And he the perishable.
Aho. Rather say,
That he will single forth some other daughter
Of earth, and love her as he once loved Anah.
Anah. And if it should be so, and she loved him,
Better thus than that he should weep for me.
Aho. If I thought thus of Samiasa's love,
All seraph as he is, I'd spurn him from me.
But to our invocation!—'Tis the hour.
Anah. Seraph!
From thy sphere!

Whatever star contain thy glory;
In the eternal depths of heaven
Albeit thou watchest with "the seven,"*
Though through space infinite and hoary
Before thy bright wings worlds be driven,
Yet hear!
Oh! think of her who holds thee dear!
And though she nothing is to thee,
Yet think that thou art all to her.
Thou canst not tell,—and never be
Such pangs decreed to aught save me,—
The bitterness of tears.
Eternity is in thine years,
Unborn, undying beauty in thine eyes;
With me thou canst not sympathize,
Except in love, and there thou must
Acknowledge that more loving dust
Ne'er wept beneath the skies.
Thou walk'st thy many worlds, thou see'st
The face of him who made thee great,
As he hath made me of the least
Of those cast out from Eden's gate;
Yet, Seraph dear!
Oh hear!
For thou hast loved me, and I would not die
Until I know what I must die in knowing,
That thou forgett'st in thine eternity
Her whose heart death could not keep
from o'erflowing
For thee, immortal essence as thou art!
Great is their love who love in sin and fear;
And such, I feel, are waging in my heart
A war unworthy: to an Adamite [appear,
Forgive, my Seraph! that such thoughts
For sorrow is our element;
Delight
An Eden kept afar from sight, [blent.
Though sometimes with our visions
The hour is near [quite.—
Which tells me we are not abandon'd
Appear! Appear!
Seraph!
My own Azaziel! be but here,
And leave the stars to their own light.

Aho. Samiasa!
Wheresoe'er
Thou rulest in the upper air— [dare
Or warring with the spirits who may
Dispute with him [ing
Who made all empires, empire; or recall-
Some wandering star, which shoots through
the abyss, [falling.
Whose tenants dying, while their world is
Share the dim destiny of clay in this;
Or joining with the inferior cherubim,
Thou deignest to partake their hymn—
Samiasa!
I call thee, I await thee, and I love thee.
Many may worship thee, that will I not:
If that thy spirit down to mine may move
Descend and share my lot! [thee,
Though I be form'd of clay,
And thou of beams
More bright than those of day
On Eden's streams,
Thine immortality cannot repay
With love more warm than mine
My love. There is a ray
In me, which, though forbidden yet to shine,
I feel was lighted at thy God's and thine.
It may be hidden long: death and decay
Our mother Eve bequeath'd us—but my
heart
Defies it: though this life must pass away,
Is *that* a cause for thee and me to part?
Thou art immortal—so am I: I feel—
I feel my immortality o'ersweep
All pains, all tears, all time, all fears, and peal,
Like the eternal thunders of the deep,
Into my ears this truth—"Thou liv'st for-
But if it be in joy [ever!"
I know not, nor would know;
That secret rests with the Almighty giver,
Who folds in clouds the fonts of bliss and
woe,
But thee and me he never can destroy;
Change us he may, but not o'erwhelm; we
Of as eternal essence, and must war [are
With him if he will war with us: with *thee*
I can share all things, even immortal
sorrow;
For thou hast ventured to share life with *me*,
And shall *I* shrink from thine eternity?
No! though the serpent's sting should
pierce me through,
And thou thyself wert like the serpent, coil
Around me still! and I will smile,
And curse thee not; but hold
Thee in as warm a fold
As—but descend, and prove
A mortal's love
For an immortal. If the skies contain [main!
More joy than thou canst give and take, re-

Anah. Sister! sister! I view them winging
Their bright way through the parted night.

Aho. The clouds from off their pinions fling-
As though they bore to-morrow's light. [ing,

Anah. But if our father see the sight!

Aho. He would but deem it was the moon
Rising unto some sorcerer's tune
An hour too soon.

Anah. They come! *he* comes!—Azaziel!

Aho. Haste
To meet them! Oh! for wings to bear
My spirit, while they hover there,
To Samiasa's breast!

Anah. Lo! they have kindled all the west,
Like a returning sunset;—lo!
On Ararat's late secret crest
A mild and many-color'd bow,
The remnant of their flashing path,
Now shines! and now, behold! it hath
Return'd to night, as rippling foam,
Which the leviathan hath lash'd
From his unfathomable home,
When sporting on the face of the calm deep,
Subsides soon after he again hath dash'd
Down, down, to where the ocean's fountains
sleep.

* The archangels, said to be seven in number, and to occupy the eighth rank in the celestial hierarchy.

Aho. They have touch'd earth! Samiasa!
Anah. My Azaziel!
[*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

Enter IRAD *and* JAPHET.

Irad. Despond not; wherefore wilt thou wander thus
To add thy silence to the silent night,
And lift thy tearful eye unto the stars?
They cannot aid thee.
Japh. But they soothe me—now
Perhaps she looks upon them as I look.
Methinks a being that is beautiful
Becometh more so as it looks on beauty,
The eternal beauty of undying things.
Oh, Anah!
Irad. But she loves thee not.
Japh. Alas!
Irad. And proud Aholibamah spurns me also.
Japh. I feel for thee too.
Irad. Let her keep her pride,
Mine hath enabled me to bear her scorn;
It may be, time too will avenge it.
Japh. Canst thou
Find joy in such a thought?
Irad. Nor joy nor sorrow.
I loved her well; I would have loved her better,
Had love been met with love: as 'tis, I leave her
To brighter destinies, if so she deems them.
Japh. What destinies?
Irad. I have some cause to think
She loves another.
Japh. Anah!
Irad. No; her sister.
Japh. What other?
Irad. That I know not; but her air,
If not her words, tells me she loves another.
Japh. Ay, but not Anah: she but loves her God.
Irad. Whate'er she loveth, so she loves not, thee
What can it profit thee?
Japh. True, nothing; but I love.
Irad. And so did I.
Japh. And now thou lov'st not,
Or think'st thou lov'st not, art thou happier?
Irad. Yes.
Japh. I pity thee.
Irad. Me! why?
Japh. For being happy,
Deprived of that which makes my misery.
Irad. I take thy taunt as part of thy distemper,
And would not feel as thou dost for more
Than all our father's herds would bring, if shekels weigh'd
Against the metal of the sons of Cain—
The yellow dust they try to barter with us,
As if such useless and discolor'd trash,
The refuse of the earth, could be received
For milk, and wool, and flesh, and fruits, and all
Our flocks and wilderness afford.—Go, Japhet,
Sigh to the stars, as wolves howl to the moon—
I must back to my rest.
Japh. And so would I
If I could rest.
Irad. Thou wilt not to our tents then?
Japh. No, Irad; I will to the cavern, whose
Mouth they say opens from the internal world
To let the inner spirits of the earth
Forth when they walk its surface.
Irad. Wherefore so?
What wouldst thou there?
Japh. Soothe further my sad spirit
With gloom as sad: it is a hopeless spot,
And I am hopeless.
Irad. But 'tis dangerous;
Strange sounds and sights have peopled it with terrors.
I must go with thee.
Japh. Irad, no; believe me
I feel no evil thought, and fear no evil.
Irad. But evil things will be thy foe the more
As not being of them: turn thy steps aside,
Or let mine be with thine.
Japh. No, neither, Irad;
I must proceed alone.
Japh. Then peace be with thee!
[*Exit* IRAD.
Japh. [*solus*]. Peace! I have sought it where it should be found, [served it;
In love—with love, too, which perhaps de-
And, in its stead, a heaviness of heart,
A weakness of the spirit,—listless days,
And nights inexorable to sweet sleep—
Have come upon me. Peace! what peace? the calm
Of desolation, and the stillness of
The untrodden forest, only broken by [boughs;
The sweeping tempest through its groaning
Such is the sullen or the fitful state
Of my mind overworn. The earth's grown wicked,
And many signs and portents have proclaim'd
A change at hand, and an o'erwhelming doom
To perishable beings. Oh, my Anah! [wide
When the dread hour denounced shall open
The fountains of the deep, how mightest thou
Have lain within this bosom, folded from
The elements; this bosom, which in vain
Hath beat for thee, and then will beat more vainly,
While thine—Oh, God! at least remit to her
Thy wrath! for she is pure amidst the failing
As a star in the clouds, which cannot quench,
Although they obscure it for an hour. My Anah! [wouldst not;
How would I have adored thee, but thou
And still would I redeem thee—see thee live
When ocean is earth's grave, and, unopposed
By rock or shallow, the leviathan,
Lord of the shoreless sea and watery world,
Shall wonder at his boundlessness of realm.
[*Exit* JAPHET.

Enter NOAH *and* SHEM.

Noah. Where is thy brother Japhet?
Shem. He went forth,
According to his wont, to meet with Irad,
He said; but, as I fear, to bend his steps
Towards Anah's tents, round which he hovers nightly,

Like a dove round and round its pillaged nest;
Or else he walks the wild up to the cavern
Which opens to the heart of Ararat. [spot
Noah. What doth he there? It is an evil
Upon an earth all evil; for things worse
Than even wicked men resort there: he
Still loves this daughter of a fated race, [him,
Although he could not wed her if she loved
And that she doth not. Oh, the unhappy hearts
Of men! that one of my blood, knowing well
The destiny and evil of these days,
And that the hour approacheth, should indulge
In such forbidden yearnings! Lead the way;
He must be sought for!
Shem. Go not forward, father:
I will seek Japhet.
Noah. Do not fear for me:
All evil things are powerless on the man
Selected by Jehovah.—Let us on. [sisters?
Shem. To the tents of the father of the
Noah. No; to the cavern of the Caucasus.
[*Exeunt* NOAH *and* SHEM.

SCENE III.

The mountains.—A cavern, and the rocks of Caucasus.

Japh. [*solus*]. Ye wilds, that look eternal; and thou cave,
Which seem'st unfathomable; and ye moun-
So varied and so terrible in beauty; [tains,
Here, in your rugged majesty of rocks [stone
And toppling trees that twine their roots with
In perpendicular places, where the foot
Of man would tremble, could he reach them—
Ye look eternal! Yet, in a few days,
Perhaps even hours, ye will be changed, rent, yes, hurl'd
Before the mass of waters; and yon cave,
Which seems to lead into a lower world,
Shall have its depths search'd by the sweeping wave,
And dolphins gambol in the lion's den!
And man—Oh, men! my fellow-beings! Who
Shall weep above your universal grave,
Save I? Who shall be left to weep? My kins-
Alas! what am I better than ye are, [men,
That I must live beyond ye? Where shall be
The pleasant places where I thought of Anah
While I had hope? or the more savage haunts,
Scarce less beloved, where I despair'd for her?
And can it be!—Shall yon exulting peak,
Whose glittering top is like a distant star,
Lie low beneath the boiling of the deep?
No more to have the morning sun break forth,
And scatter back the mists in floating folds
From its tremendous brow? no more to have
Day's broad orb drop behind its head at even,
Leaving it with a crown of many hues?
No more to be the beacon of the world,
For angels to alight on, as the spot [*more*"
Nearest the stars? And can those words "*no*
Be meant for thee, for all things, save for us,
And the predestined creeping things reserved
By my sire to Jehovah's bidding? May
He preserve *them*, and *I not* have the power
To snatch the loveliest of earth's daughters from [mate,
A doom which even some serpent, with his
Shall 'scape to save his kind to be prolong'd,
To hiss and sting through some emerging world, [ooze
Reeking and dank from out the slime, whose
Shall slumber o'er the wreck of this until
The salt morass subside into a sphere
Beneath the sun, and be the monument,
The sole and undistinguish'd sepulchre,
Of yet quick myriads of all life? How much
Breath will be still'd at once? All-beauteous world!
So young, so mark'd out for destruction, I
With a cleft heart look on thee day by day,
And night by night, thy number'd days and nights.
I cannot save thee, cannot save even her
Whose love had made me love thee more; but
A portion of thy dust, I cannot think [as
Upon thy coming doom without a feeling
Such as—Oh God! and canst thou—
[*He pauses.*
[*A rushing sound from the cavern is heard, and shouts of laughter—afterwards a Spirit passes.*
Japh. In the name
Of the Most High, what art thou?
Spirit [*laughs*]. Ha! ha! ha!
Japh. By all that earth holds holiest, speak!
Spirit [*laughs*]. Ha! ha!
Japh. By the approaching deluge! by the earth
Which will be strangled by the ocean! by
The deep which will lay open all her fountains!
The heaven which will convert her clouds to seas,
And the Omnipotent who makes and crushes!
Thou unknown, terrible, and indistinct,
Yet awful Thing of Shadows, speak to me!
Why dost thou laugh that horrid laugh?
Spirit. Why weep'st thou?
Japh. For earth and all her children.
Spirit. Ha! ha! ha!
[*Spirit vanishes.*
Japh. How the fiend mocks the tortures of
The coming desolation of an orb, [a world,
On which the sun shall rise and warm no life!
How the earth sleeps! and all that in it is
Sleep too upon the very eve of death! [here,
Why should they wake to meet it? What are
Which look like death in life, and speak like things [clouds!
Born ere this dying world? They come like
[*Various Spirits pass from the cavern.*
Spirit. Rejoice!
The abhorred race
Which could not keep in Eden their high place,
But listen'd to the voice
Of knowledge without power,
Are nigh the hour
Of death!
Not slow, not single, not by sword, nor sorrow,
Nor years, nor heart-break, nor time's sapping motion,

Shall they drop off. Behold their last to-morrow!
Earth shall be ocean!
And no breath,
Save of the winds, be on the unbounded wave!
Angels shall tire their wings, but find no spot:
Not even a rock from out the liquid grave
Shall lift its point to save,
Or show the place where strong Despair hath
After long looking o'er the ocean wide [died,
For the expected ebb which cometh not:
All shall be void,
Destroy'd!
Another element shall be the lord
Of life, and the abhorr'd
Children of dust be quench'd; and of each hue
Of earth nought left but the unbroken blue;
And of the variegated mountain
Shall nought remain
Unchanged, or of the level plain;
Cedar and pine shall lift their tops in vain;
All merged within the universal fountain,
Man, earth, and fire, shall die
And sea and sky
Look vast and lifeless in the eternal eye.
Upon the foam
Who shall erect a home?
Japh. [*coming forward.*] My sire!
Earth's seed shall not expire;
Only the evil shall be put away
From day.
Avaunt! ye exulting demons of the waste!
Who howl your hideous joy
When God destroys whom you dare not de-
Hence! haste! [stroy;
Back to your inner caves!
Until the waves
Shall search you in your secret place,
And drive your sullen race
Forth, to be roll'd upon the tossing winds,
In restless wretchedness along the space!
Spirit. Son of the saved!
When thou and thine have braved
The wide and warring element;
When the great barrier of the deep is rent,
Shall thou and thine be good or happy?—No!
The new world and new race shall be of woe—
Less goodly in their aspect, in their years
Less than the glorious giants, who
Yet walk the world in pride,
The Sons of Heaven by many a mortal bride.
Thine shall be nothing of the past, save tears.
And art thou not ashamed
Thus to survive,
And eat, and drink, and wive?
With a base heart so far subdued and tamed,
As even to hear this wide destruction named,
Without such grief and courage, as should rather
Bid thee wait the world-dissolving wave,
Than seek a shelter with thy favor'd father,
And build thy city o'er the drown'd earth's grave?
Who would outlive their kind,
Except the base and blind?
Mine
Hateth thine
As of a different order in the sphere,
But not our own.
There is not one who hath not left a throne
Vacant in heaven to dwell in darkness here,
Rather than see his mates endure alone.
Go, wretch! and give
A life like thine to other wretches—live!
And when the annihilating waters roar
Above what they have done,
Envy the giant patriarchs then no more,
And scorn thy sire as the surviving one!
Thyself for being his son!
Chorus of Spirits issuing from the Cavern.
Rejoice!
No more the human voice
Shall vex our joys in middle air
With prayer:
No more
Shall they adore;
And we, who ne'er for ages have adored
The prayer-exacting Lord,
To whom the omission of a sacrifice
Is vice;
We, we shall view the deep's salt sources pour,
Until one element shall do the work
Of all in chaos; until they,
The creatures proud of their poor clay,
Shall perish, and their bleached bones shall lurk [where
In caves, in dens, in clefts of mountains,
The deep shall follow to their latest lair;
Where even the brutes, in their despair,
Shall cease to prey on man and on each other,
And the striped tiger shall lie down to die
Beside the lamb, as though he were his brother;
Till all things shall be as they were,
Silent and uncreated in the sky;
While a brief truce
Is made with Death, who shall forbear
The little remnant of the past creation,
To generate new nations for his use;
This remnant, floating o'er the undulation
Of the subsiding deluge, from its slime,
When the hot sun hath baked the reeking soil
Into a world, shall give again to Time
New beings—years, diseases, sorrow, crime—
Will all companionship of hate and toil,
Until—
Japh. [*interrupting him.*] The Eternal will
Shall deign to expound this dream
Of good and evil; and redeem
Unto himself all times, all things;
And, gather'd under his almighty wings,
Abolish hell!
And to the expiated Earth
Restore the beauty of her birth,
Her Eden in an endless paradise, [fell,
Where no more man can fall as once he
And even the very demons shall do well!
Spirits. And when shall take effect this wondrous spell?

Japh. When the Redeemer cometh; first in
And then in glory. [pain,
Spirit. Meanwhile still struggle in the mor-
Till earth wax hoary: [tal chain,
War with yourselves, and hell, and heaven, in
Until the clouds look gory [vain,
With the blood reeking from each battle plain;
New times, new climes, new arts, new men; but still,
The same old tears, old crimes, and oldest ill,
Shall be amongst your race in different forms;
But the same moral storms
Shall oversweep the future, as the waves
In a few hours the glorious giants' graves.*

Chorus of Spirits.

Brethren, rejoice!
Mortal, farewell!
Hark! hark! already we can hear the voice
Of growing ocean's gloomy swell;
The winds, too, plume their piercing wings;
The clouds have nearly fill'd their springs;
The fountains of the great deep shall be broken, [mankind
And heaven set wide her windows;† while
View, unacknowledged, each tremendous token—
Still, as they were from the beginning, blind.
We hear the sound they cannot hear,
The mustering thunders of the threatening sphere;
Yet a few hours their coming is delay'd;
Their flashing banners, folded still on high,
Yet undisplay'd,
Save to the Spirit's all-pervading eye.
Howl! howl! Oh Earth!
Thy death is nearer than thy recent birth;
Tremble, ye mountains, soon to sink below
The ocean's overflow! [shells,
The wave shall break upon your cliffs; and
The little shells, of ocean's least things, be
Deposed where now the eagle's offspring dwells— [sea!
How shall he shriek o'er the remorseless
And call his nestlings up with fruitless yell,
Unanswer'd, save by the encroaching swell;—
While man shall long in vain for his broad
The wings which could not save:— [wings,
Where could he rest them, while the whole space brings
Nought to his eye beyond the deep, his grave?
Brethren, rejoice!
And loudly lift each superhuman voice—
All die,
Save the slight remnant of Seth's seed—
The seed of Seth,
Exempt for future Sorrow's sake from death.
But of the sons of Cain
None shall remain;
And all his goodly daughters
Must lie beneath the desolating waters;
Or, floating upward, with their long hair laid
Along the wave, the cruel heaven unbraid,
Which would not spare
Beings even in death so fair.
It is decreed,
All die!
And to the universal human cry
The universal silence shall succeed!
Fly, brethren, fly!
But still rejoice!
We fell!
They fall!
So perish all [hell!
These petty foes of Heaven who shrink from

[*The Spirits disappear, soaring upwards.*

Japh. [*solus*]. God hath proclaim'd the destiny of earth;
My father's ark of safety hath announced it;
The very demons shriek it from their caves:
The scroll of Enoch prophesied it long *
In silent books, which, in their silence, say
More to the mind than thunder to the ear:
And yet men listen'd not, nor listen; but
Walk darkling to their doom; which, though so nigh,
Shakes them no more in their dim disbelief,
Than their last cries shall shake the Almighty purpose,
Or deaf obedient ocean, which fulfils it.
No sign yet hangs its banner in the air; [ture;
The clouds are few, and of their wonted tex-
The sun will rise upon the earth's last day
As on the fourth day of creation, when [forth
God said unto him, "Shine!" and he broke
Into the dawn, which lighted not the yet
Unform'd forefather of mankind—but roused
Before the human orison the earlier
Made and far sweeter voices of the birds,
Which in the open firmament of heaven
Have wings like angels, and like them salute
Heaven first each day before the Adamites:
Their matins now draw nigh—the east is kindling— [near,
And they will sing! and day will break! Both
So near the awful close! For these must drop
Their outworn pinions on the deep; and day,
After the bright course of a few brief morrows—
Ay, day will rise; but upon what?—a chaos,
Which was ere day; and which, renew'd, makes time
Nothing! for, without life, what are the hours?
No more to dust than is eternity
Unto Jehovah, who created both.
Without him, even eternity would be
A void: without man, time, as made for man,
Dies with man, and is swallow'd in that deep
Which has no fountain; as his race will be
Devoured by that which drowns his infant world.— [air?
What have we here? Shapes of both earth and
No—*all* of heaven, they are so beautiful.
I cannot trace their features; but their forms,

* "And there were giants in the earth in those days, and after, mighty men, which were of old, men of renown."—GENESIS.

† "The same day were all the foundations of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."—IBID.

* The book of Enoch, preserved by the Ethiopians, is said by them to be anterior to the flood.

How lovelily they move along the side
Of the grey mountain, scattering its mist!
And after the swart savage spirits, whose
Infernal immortality pour'd forth
Their impious hymn of triumph, they shall be
Welcome as Eden. It may be they come
To tell me the reprieve of our young world,
For which I have so often pray'd—They come!
Anah! oh, God! and with her—

Enter SAMIASA, AZAZIEL, ANAH *and* AHOLIBAMAH.

Anah. Japhet!
Sam. Lo!
A son of Adam!
Aza. What doth the earth-born here,
While all his race are slumbering?
Japh. Angel! what
Dost thou on earth when thou shouldst be on high?
Aza. Know'st thou not, or forgett'st thou, that a part
Of our great function is to guard thine earth?
Japh. But all good angels have forsaken earth,
Which is condemn'd; nay, even the evil fly
The approaching chaos. Anah! Anah! my
In vain, and long, and still to be, beloved!
Why walk'st thou with this spirit, in those hours
When no good spirit longer lights below?
Anah. Japhet, I cannot answer thee; yet, Forgive me— [yet
Japh. May the Heaven, which soon no more [tempted.
Will pardon, do so! for thou art greatly
Aho. Back to thy tents, insulting son of We know thee not. [Noah!
Japh. The hour may come when thou
May'st know me better; and thy sister know
Me still the same which I have ever been.
Sam. Son of the patriarch, who hath ever been
Upright before his God, whate'er thy gifts,
And thy words seem of sorrow, mix'd with wrath,
How have Azaziel, or myself, brought on thee
Wrong? [but thou
Japh. Wrong! the greatest of all wrongs;
Say'st well; though she be dust, I did not, could not,
Deserve her. Farewell, Anah! I have said
That word so often! but now say it, ne'er
To be repeated. Angel! or whate'er
Thou art, or must be soon, hast thou the power
To save this beautiful—*these* beautiful
Children of Cain?
Aza. From what?
Japh. And is it so,
That ye too know not? Angels! angels! ye
Have shared man's sin, and, it may be, now must
Partake his punishment; or, at the least,
My sorrow.
Sam. Sorrow! I ne'er thought till now
To hear an Adamite speak riddles to me.
Japh. And hath not the Most High expounded them?
Then ye are lost, as they are lost.
Aho. So be it!
If they love as they are loved, they will not shrink
More to be mortal, than I would to dare
An immortality of agonies
With Samiasa!
Anah. Sister! sister! speak not Thus.
Aza. Fearest thou, my Anah?
Anah. Yes, for thee:
I would resign the greater remnant of
This little life of mine, before one hour
Of thine eternity should know a pang.
Japh. It is for *him*, then! for the seraph thou
Hast left me! That is nothing, if thou hast not
Left thy God too! for unions like to these,
Between a mortal and an immortal, cannot
Be happy or be hallow'd. We are sent
Upon the earth to toil and die; and they
Are made to minister on high unto
The Highest: but if he can *save* thee, soon
The hour will come in which celestial aid
Alone can do so.
Anah. Ah! he speaks of death.
Sam. Of death to *us!* and those who are with us!
But that the man seems full of sorrow, I
Could smile.
Japh. I grieve not for myself, nor fear;
I am safe, not for my own deserts, but those
Of a well-doing sire, who hath been found
Righteous enough to save his children. Would
His power was greater of redemption! or
That by exchanging my own life for hers,
Who could alone have made mine happy, she,
The last and loveliest of Cain's race, could share
The ark which shall receive a remnant of
The seed of Seth!
Aho. And dost thou think that we,
With Cain's, the eldest born of Adam's blood
Warm in our veins,—strong Cain! who was begotten [dren?
In Paradise,—would mingle with Seth's chil-
Seth, the last offspring of old Adam's dotage?
No, not to save all earth, were earth in peril!
Our race hath always dwelt apart from thine
From the beginning, and shall do so ever.
Japh. I did not speak to thee, Aholibamah!
Too much of the forefather whom thou vauntest [springs
Has come down in that haughty blood which
From him who shed the first, and that a brother's!
But thou, my Anah! let me call thee mine,
Albeit thou art not, 'tis a word I cannot
Part with, although I must from thee. My Anah! [Abel
Thou who dost rather make me dream that
Had left a daughter, whose pure pious race
Survived in thee, so much unlike thou art
The rest of the stern Cainites, save in beauty,
For all of them are fairest in their favor—

Aho. [*interrupting him.*] And wouldst thou
have her like our father's foe
In mind, in soul? If *I* partook thy thought,
And dream'd that aught of *Abel* was in *her!*—
Get thee hence, son of Noah; thou makest
strife.
Japh. Offspring of Cain, thy father did so!
Aho. But
He slew not Seth: and what hast thou to do
With other deeds between his God and him?
Japh. Thou speakest well: his God hath
judged him, and
I had not named his deed, but that thyself
Didst seem to glory in him, nor to shrink
From what he had done.
Aho. He was our fathers' father;
The eldest born of man, the strongest, bravest,
And most enduring:—Shall I blush for him
From whom we had our being? Look upon
Our race; behold their stature and their
beauty,
Their courage, strength, and length of days—
Japh. They are number'd.
Aho. Be it so! but while yet their hours en-
I glory in my brethren and our fathers. [dure,
Japh. My sire and race but glory in their
Anah! and thou?— [God,
Anah. Whate'er our God decrees,
The God of Seth as Cain, I must obey,
And will endeavor patiently to obey.
But could I dare to pray in his dread hour
Of universal vengeance (if such should be),
It would not be to live, alone exempt
Of all my house. My sister! oh, my sister!
What were the world, or other worlds, or all
The brightest future, without the sweet past—
Thy love—my father's—all the life, and all
The things which sprang up with me, like
the stars,
Making my dim existence radiant with
Soft lights which were not mine? Aholiba-
mah!
Oh! if there should be mercy—seek it, find it:
I abhor death, because that thou must die.
Aho. What, hath this dreamer, with his
father's ark,
The bugbear he hath built to scare the world,
Shaken *my* sister? Are *we* not the loved
Of Seraphs? and if we were not, must we
Cling to a son of Noah for our lives?
Rather than thus—But the enthusiast dreams
The worst of dreams, the fantasies engender'd
By hopeless love and heated vigils. Who
Shall shake these solid mountains, this firm
earth,
And bid those clouds and waters take a shape
Distinct from that which we and all our sires
Have seen them wear on their eternal way?
Who shall do this?
Japh. He whose one word produced them.
Aho. Who *heard* that word?
Japh. The universe, which leap'd
To life before it. Ah! smilest thou still in
scorn?
Turn to thy seraphs: if they attest it not,
They are none.

Sam. Aholibamah, own thy God!
Aho. I have ever hail'd our Maker, Samiasa.
As thine, and mine: a God of love, not sorrow.
Japh. Alas! what else is love but sorrow?
Even
He who made earth in love had soon to grieve
Above its first and best inhabitants.
Aho. 'Tis said so.
Japh. It is even so.

Enter NOAH *and* SHEM.

Noah. Japhet! what
Dost thou here with these children of the
wicked? [doom?
Dread'st thou not to partake their coming
Japh. Father, it cannot be a sin to seek
To save an earth-born being; and behold,
These are not the sinful, since they have
The fellowship of angels.
Noah. These are they, then,
Who leave the throne of God, to take them
wives
From out the race of Cain; the sons of heaven,
Who seek earth's daughters for their beauty?
Asa. Patriarch!
Thou hast said it.
Noah. Woe, woe, woe to such communion!
Has not God made a barrier between earth
And heaven, and limited each, kind to kind?
Sam. Was not man made in high Jehovah's
image? [what
Did God not love what he had made? And
Do we but imitate and emulate
His love unto created love?
Noah. I am
But man, and was not made to judge mankind,
Far less the sons of God; but as our God
Has deign'd to commune with me, and reveal
His judgments, I reply, that the descent
Of seraphs from their everlasting seat
Unto a perishable and perishing,
Even on the very *eve* of *perishing*, world
Cannot be good.
Asa. What? though it were to save?
Noah. Not ye in all your glory can redeem
What He who made you glorious hath con-
demn'd.
Were your immortal mission safety, 'twould
Be general, not for two, though beautiful;
And beautiful they are, but not the less
Condemn'd.
Japh. Oh, father! say it not.
Noah. Son! son!
If that thou wouldst avoid their doom, forget
That they exist: they soon shall cease to be,
While thou shalt be the sire of a new world,
And better.
Japh. Let me die with *this* and *them!*
Noah. Thou *shouldst* for such a thought, but
Who *can*, redeems thee. [shalt not; he
Sam. And why him and thee,
More than what he, thy son, prefers to both.
Noah. Ask Him who made thee greater
than myself
And mine, but not less subject to his own
Almightiness. And lo! his mildest and

Least to be tempted messenger appears!

Enter RAPHAEL, *the Archangel.*

Raph. Spirits!
Whose seat is near the throne,
What do ye here?
Is thus a seraph's duty to be shown,
Now that the hour is near
When earth must be alone?
Return!
Adore and burn,
In glorious homage with the elected "seven."
Your place is heaven.

Sam. Raphael!
The first and fairest of the sons of God,
How long hath this been law,
That earth by angels must be left untrod?
Earth! which oft saw
Jehovah's footsteps not disdain her sod!
The world he loved, and made
For love; and oft have we obey'd
His frequent mission with delighted pinions:
Adoring him in his least works display'd;
Watching this youngest star of his dominions;
And, as the latest birth of his great word,
Eager to keep it worthy of our Lord.
Why is thy brow severe? [near?
And wherefore speak'st thou of destruction

Raph. Had Samaiasa and Azaziel been
In their true place, with the angelic choir,
Written in fire
They would have seen
Jehovah's late decree,
And not inquired their Maker's breath of me:
But ignorance must ever be
A part of sin;
And even the spirits' knowledge shall grow less
As they wax proud within;
For Blindness is the first-born of Excess.
When all good angels left the world, ye stay'd,
Stung with strange passions, and debased
By mortal feelings for a mortal maid:
But ye are pardon'd thus far, and replaced
With your pure equals. Hence! away! away!
Or stay,
And lose eternity by that delay!

Aza. And thou! if earth be thus forbidden
In the decree
To us until this moment hidden,
Dost thou not err as we
In being here? [sphere,

Raph. I came to call ye back to your fit
In the great name and at the word of God.
Dear, dearest in themselves, and scarce less dear
That which I came to do: till now we trod
Together the eternal space; together [die!
Let us still walk the stars. True, earth must
Her race, return'd into her womb, must wither,
And much which she inherits: but oh! why
Cannot this earth be made, or be destroy'd,
Without involving ever some vast void
In the immortal ranks? immortal still
In their immeasurable forfeiture.
Our brother Satan fell; his burning will
Rather than longer worship dared endure!
But ye who still are pure!
Seraphs! less mighty than that mightiest one,
Think how he was undone!
And think if tempting man can compensate
For heaven desired too late?
Long have I warr'd,
Long must I war
With him who deem'd it hard
To be created, and to acknowledge him
Who midst the cherubim
Made him as suns to a dependent star,
Leaving the archangels at his right hand dim.
I loved him—beautiful he was: oh, heaven!
Save *his* who made, what beauty and what power
Was ever like to Satan's! Would the hour
In which he fell could ever be forgiven!
The wish is impious: but, O ye!
Yet undestroy'd, be warn'd! Eternity
With him, or with his God, is in your choice:
He hath not tempted you; he cannot tempt
The angels, from his further snares exempt:
But man hath listen'd to his voice,
And ye to woman's—beautiful she is,
The serpent's voice less subtle than her kiss.
The snake but vanquish'd dust: but she will draw [law.
A second host from heaven, to break heaven's
Yet, yet, oh fly!
Ye cannot die;
But they
Shall pass away,
While ye shall fill with shrieks the upper sky
For perishable clay,
Whose memory in your immortality [day.
Shall long outlast the sun which gave them
Think how your essence differeth from theirs
In all but suffering! why partake
The agony to which they must be heirs—
Born to be plough'd with years, and sown with cares,
And reap'd by Death, lord of the human soil?
Even had their days been left to toil, their path
Through time to dust, unshorten'd by God's wrath,
Still they are Evil's prey and Sorrow's spoil.

Aho. Let them fly!
I hear the voice which says that all must die,
Sooner than our white-bearded patriarch's
And that on high [died,
An ocean is prepared,
While from below
The deep shall rise to meet heaven's overflow.
Few shall be spared,
It seems; and, of that few, the race of Cain
Must lift their eyes to Adam's God in vain.
Sister! since it is so,
And the eternal Lord
In vain would be implored
For the remission of one hour of woe,
Let us resign even what we have adored,
And meet the wave, as we would meet the sword,
If not unmoved, yet undismay'd,
And wailing less for us than those who shall

Survive in mortal or immortal thrall,
And, when the fatal waters are allay'd,
Weep for the myriads who can weep no more.
Fly, seraphs! To your own eternal shore,
Where winds nor howl nor waters roar.
Our portion is to die,
And yours to live forever.
But which is best, a dead eternity,
Or living, is but known to the great Giver.
Obey him, as we shall obey;
I would not keep this life of mine in clay
An hour beyond his will;
Nor see ye lose a portion of his grace,
For all the mercy which Seth's race
Find still.
Fly!
And as your pinions bear ye back to heaven,
Think that my love still mounts with thee on high,
Samiasa!
And if I look up with a tearless eye,
'Tis that an angel's bride disdains to weep,—
Farewell! Now rise, inexorable deep!
Anah. And must we die?
And must I lose thee too,
Azaziel?
Oh, my heart! my heart!
Thy prophecies were true!
And yet thou wert so happy too!
The blow, though not unlook'd for, falls as new:
But yet depart!
Ah! why?
Yet let me not retain thee—fly!
My pangs can be but brief; but thine would be
Eternal, if repulsed from heaven for me.
Too much already hast thou deign'd
To one of Adam's race!
Our doom is sorrow; not to us alone,
But to the spirits who have not disdain'd
To love us, cometh anguish with disgrace.
The first who taught us knowledge hath been
From his once archangelic throne [hurl'd
Into some unknown world:
And thou, Azaziel! No—
Thou shalt not suffer woe
For me. Away! nor weep!
Thou canst not weep; but yet
May'st suffer more, not weeping; then forget
Her, whom the surges of the all-strangling deep
Can bring no pang like this. Fly! fly!
Being gone, 'twill be less difficult to die.
Japh. Oh, say not so!
Father! and thou, archangel, thou!
Surely celestial mercy lurks below
That pure severe serenity of brow;
Let them not meet this sea without a shore,
Save in our ark, or let me be no more!
Noah. Peace, child of passion, peace!
If not within thy heart, yet with thy tongue
Do God no wrong!
Live as he wills it—die, when he ordains,
A righteous death, unlike the seed of Cain's.
Cease, or be sorrowful in silence! cease
To weary Heaven's ear with thy selfish plaint.
Wouldst thou have God commit a sin for thee?
Such would it be
To alter his intent
For a mere mortal sorrow. Be a man! [can.
And bear what Adam's race must bear, and
Japh. Ay, father! but when they are gone,
And we are all alone,
Floating upon the azure desert, and
The depth beneath us hides our own dear land,
And dearer, silent friends and brethren all
Buried in its immeasureable breast,
Who, who, our tears, our shrieks, shall then command?
Can we in desolation's peace have rest?
Oh, God! be thou a God, and spare
Yet while 'tis time!
Renew not Adam's fall:
Mankind were then but twain,
But they are numerous now as are the waves
And the tremendous rain, [their graves,
Whose drops shall be less thick than would
Were graves permitted to the seed of Cain.
Noah. Silence, vain boy! each word of thine's a crime.
Angel! forgive this stripling's fond despair.
Raph. Seraphs! these mortals speak in passion: Ye!
Who are, or should be, passionless and pure,
May now return with me.
Sam. It may not be:
We have chosen, and will endure.
Raph. Say'st thou?
Aza. He hath said it, and I say, Amen!
Raph. Again!
Then from this hour,
Shorn as ye are of all celestial power,
And aliens from your God,
Farewell!
Japh. Alas! where shall they dwell?
Hark, hark! Deep sounds, and deeper still,
Are howling from the mountain's bosom:
There's not a breath of wind upon the hill,
Yet quivers every leaf, and drops each blossom:
Earth groans as if beneath a heavy load.
Noah. Hark, hark! the sea-birds cry!
In clouds they overspread the lurid sky,
And hover round the mountain, where before
Never a white wing, wetted by the wave,
Yet dared to soar, [brave.
Even when the waters wax'd too fierce to
Soon it shall be their only shore,
And then, no more!
Japh. The sun! the sun!
He riseth, but his better light is gone;
And a black circle, bound
His glaring disk around, [shone!
Proclaims earth's last of summer days hath
The clouds return into the hues of night,
Save where their brazen-color'd edges streak
The verge where brighter morns were wont to
Noah. And lo! yon flash of light, [break.
The distant thunder's harbinger, appears!
It cometh! hence away!
Leave to the elements their evil prey!
Hence to where our all-hallow'd ark uprears
Its safe and wreckless sides!
Japh. Oh, father, stay!

Leave not my Anah to the swallowing tides.
Noah. Must we not leave all life to such?
Japh. Not I. [Begone!
Noah. Then die
With them!
How darest thou look on that prophetic sky,
And seek to save what all things now condemn,
In overwhelming unison
With just Jehovah's wrath! [path?
Japh. Can rage and justice join in the same
Noah. Blasphemer! darest thou murmur
even now! [thy brow;
Raph. Patriarch, be still a father! smooth
Thy son, despite his folly, shall not sink:
He knows not what he says, yet shall not drink
With sobs the salt foam of the swelling
waters:
But he, when passion passeth, good as thou,
Nor perish like heaven's children with man's
daughters. [unite
Aho. The tempest cometh; heaven and earth
For the annihilation of all life.
Unequal is the strife
Between our strength and the Eternal Might!
Sam. But ours is with thee: we will bear ye
To some untroubled star, [far
Where thou and Anah shall partake our lot:
And if thou dost not weep for thy lost earth,
Our forfeit heaven shall also be forgot.
Anah. Oh! my dear father's tents, my place
of birth, [not,
And mountains, land and woods! when ye are
Who shall dry up my tears?
Aza. Thy spirit-lord.
Fear not; though we are shut from heaven,
Yet much is ours, whence we cannot be driven.
Raph. Rebel! thy words are wicked as thy
deeds [sword,
Shall henceforth be but weak: the flaming
Which chased the first-born out of Paradise,
Still flashes in the angelic hands. [death,
Aza. It cannot slay us: threaten dust with
And talk of weapons unto that which bleeds.
What are thy swords in our immortal eyes?
Raph. The moment cometh to approve thy
And learn at length [strength;
How vain to war with what thy God com-
Thy former force was in thy faith. [mands:

Enter Mortals, flying for refuge.
Chorus of Mortals.

The heavens and earth are mingling—God! oh
What have we done? Yet spare! [God!
Hark! even the forest beasts howl forth their
prayer!
The dragon crawls from out his den,
The herd, in terror, innocent with men;
And the birds scream their agony through air.
Yet, yet, Jehovah! yet withdraw thy rod
Of wrath, and pity thine own world's despair!
Hear not man only, but all nature plead!
Raph. Farewell, thou earth! ye wretched
sons of clay,
I cannot, must not, aid you. 'Tis decreed!
[*Exit* RAPHAEL.

Japh. Some clouds sweep on as vultures
for their prey,
While others, fix'd as rocks, await the word
At which their wrathful vials shall be pour'd.
No azure more shall robe the firmament,
Nor spangled stars be glorious: Death hath
risen;
In the sun's place a pale and ghastly glare
Hath wound itself around the dying air.
Aza. Come, Anah! quit this chaos-founded
To which the elements again repair, [prison,
To turn it into what it was: beneath
The shelter of these wings thou shalt be safe,
As was the eagle's nestling once within
Its mother's.—Let the coming chaos chafe
With all its elements! Heed not their din!
A brighter world than this, where thou shalt
Ethereal life, will we explore: [breathe:
These darken'd clouds are not the only skies.
[AZAZIEL *and* SAMIASA *fly off and disappear*
with ANAH *and* AHOLIBAMAH.
Japh. They are gone! They have disap-
pear'd amidst the roar
Of the forsaken world; and never more,
Whether they live, or die with all earth's life,
Now near its last, can aught restore
Anah unto these eyes.

Chorus of Mortals.

Oh son of Noah! mercy on thy kind!
What! wilt thou leave us all—all—*all* behind?
While safe amidst the elemental strife,
Thou sitt'st within thy guarded ark?
A Mother [*offering her infant to* JAPHET].
Oh let this child embark!
I brought him forth in woe,
But thought it joy
To see him to my bosom clinging so.
Why was he born?
What hath he done—
My unwean'd son—
To move Jehovah's wrath or scorn?
What is there in this milk of mine, that death
Should stir all heaven and earth up to destroy
My boy,
And roll the waters o'er his placid breath?
Save him, thou seed of Seth!
Or cursed be—with him who made
Thee and thy race, for which we are betray'd!
Japh. Peace! 'tis no hour for curses, but
for prayer!

Chorus of Mortals.

For prayer! ! !
And where
Shall prayer ascend,
When the swoln clouds unto the mountains
And burst, [bend
And gushing oceans every barrier rend,
Until the very deserts know no thirst?
Accursed
Be he who made thee and thy sire!
We deem our curses vain; we must expire;
But as we know the worst,
Why should our hymn be raised, our knees be
Before the implacable Omnipotent, [bent

Since we must fall the same?
If he made earth, let it be to his shame,
To make a world for torture.—Lo! they come,
The loathsome waters, in their rage! [dumb!
And with their roar make wholesome nature
The forests' trees (coeval with the hour
When Paradise upsprung, [dower,
Ere Eve gave Adam knowledge for her
Or Adam his first hymn of slavery sung),
So massy, vast, yet green in their old age,
Are overtopp'd,
Their summer blossoms by the surges lopp'd,
Which rise, and rise, and rise.
Vainly we look up to the lowering skies—
They meet the seas,
And shut out God from our beseeching eyes.
Fly, son of Noah, fly! and take thine ease,
In thine allotted ocean-tent;
And view, all floating over the element,
The corpses of the world of thy young days:
Then to Jehovah raise
Thy song of praise!

A Mortal. Blessed are the dead
Who die in the Lord!

And though the waters be o'er earth out-spread,
Yet, as *his* word,
Be the decree adored!
He gave me life—he taketh but
The breath which is his own:
And though these eyes should be forever shut,
Nor longer this weak voice before his throne
Be heard in supplicating tone,
Still blessed be the Lord,
For what is past,
For that which is:
For all are his,
From first to last—
Time—space—eternity—life—death—
The vast known and immeasurable unknown.
He hath made, and can unmake;

And shall *I*, for a little gasp of breath,
Blaspheme and groan?
No; let me die, as I have lived, in faith,
Nor quiver, though the universe may quake!

Chorus of Mortals.

Where shall we fly?
Not to the mountains high;
For now their torrents rush, with double roar,
To meet the ocean, which, advancing still,
Already grasps each drowning hill,
Nor leaves an unsearch'd cave.

Enter a Woman.

Woman. Oh, save me, save!
Our valley is no more.
My father, and my father's tent,
My brethren and my brethren's herds, [bent,
The pleasant trees that o'er our noonday
And sent forth evening songs from sweetest birds,
The little rivulet which freshen'd all
Our pastures green,
No more are to be seen.
When to the mountain cliff I climb'd this morn,
I turn'd to bless the spot,
And not a leaf appear'd about to fall;—
And now they are not!
Why was I born?

Japh. To die! in youth to die!
And happier in that doom,
Than to behold the universal tomb,
Which I,
Am thus condemn'd to weep above in vain.
Why, when all perish, why must I remain?

[*The waters rise: Men fly in every direction; many are overtaken by the waves; the Chorus of Mortals disperses in search of safety up the mountains:* Japhet *remains upon a rock, while the Ark floats towards him in the distance.*

WERNER; OR, THE INHERITANCE:

A TRAGEDY.

1822.

TO

THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOETHE,

BY ONE OF HIS HUMBLEST ADMIRERS, THIS TRAGEDY IS DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

The following drama is taken entirely from the "German's Tale, Kruitzner," published many years ago in "Lee's Canterbury Tales," written (I believe) by two sisters, of whom one furnished only this story and another, both of which are considered superior to the remainder of the collection. I have adopted the characters, plan, and even the language of many parts of this story. Some of the characters are modified or altered, a few of the names changed, and one character (Ida of Stralenheim) added by myself; but in the rest the original is chiefly followed. When I was young (about fourteen, I think) I first read this tale, which made a deep impression upon me; and may, indeed, be said to contain the germ of much that I have since written. I am not sure that it ever was very popular; or, at any rate, its popularity has since been eclipsed by that of other great writers in the same department. But I have generally found that those who had read it, agreed with me in their estimate of the singular power of mind and conception which it develops. I should also add conception, rather than execution; for the story might, perhaps, have been developed with greater advantage. Amongst those whose opinions

agreed with mine upon this story, I could mention some very high names; but it is not necessary, nor indeed of any use; for every one must judge according to his own feelings. I merely refer the reader to the original story, that he may see to what extent I have borrowed from it; and am not unwilling that he should find much greater pleasure in perusing it than the drama which is founded upon its contents.

I had begun a drama upon this tale so far back as 1815 (the first I ever attempted, except one at thirteen years old, called "Ulric and Ilvina," which I had sense enough to burn), and had nearly completed an act, when I was interrupted by circumstances. This is somewhere amongst my papers in England; but as it has not been found, I have re-written the first, and added the subsequent acts.

The whole is neither intended, nor in any shape adapted, for the stage.

Pisa, February, 1822.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MEN.

Werner.
Ulric.
Stralenheim.
Idenstein.
Gabor.
Fritz.
Henrick.
Eric.
Arnheim.
Meister.
Rodolph.
Ludwig.

WOMEN.

Josephine.
Ida Stralenheim.

Scene.—*Partly on the frontier of* Silesia, *and partly in* Siegendorf Castle, *near* Prague.

Time.—*The Close of the Thirty Years' War.*

ACT I.

Scene I.—*The Hall of a decayed Palace near a small Town on the Northern Frontier of Silesia—the Night tempestuous.*

Werner *and* Josephine, *his Wife.*

Jos. My love, be calmer!
Wer. I am calm.
Jos. To me—
Yes, but not to thyself: thy peace is hurried,
And no one walks a chamber like to ours
With steps like thine when his heart is at rest.
Were it a garden, I should deem thee happy,
And stepping with the bee from flower to flower;
But *here!*
Wer. 'Tis chill; the tapestry lets through
The wind to which it waves: my blood is frozen.
Jos. Ah, no!
Wer. [*smiling*]. Why! wouldst thou have it so?
Jos. I would
Have it a healthful current.
Wer. Let it flow
Until 'tis split or check'd—how soon, I care not.
Jos. And am I nothing in thy heart? [not.
Wer. All—all.
Jos. Then canst thou wish for that which must break mine?
Wer. [*approaching her slowly*]. But for *thee* I had been—no matter what,
But much of good and evil; what I am [been,
Thou knowest; what I might or should have
Thou knowest not; but still I love thee, nor
Shall aught divide us.

[Werner *walks on abruptly, and then approaches* Josephine.

The storm of the night
Perhaps affects me; I'm a thing of feelings,
And have of late been sickly, as, alas!
Thou know'st by sufferings more than mine,
In watching me. [my love!
Jos. To see thee well is much—
To see thee happy—
Wer. Where hast thou seen such!
Let me be wretched with the rest!
Jos. But think
How many in this hour of tempest shiver
Beneath the biting wind and heavy rain,
Whose every drop bows them down nearer earth, [neath
Which hath no chamber for them save be-
Her surface.
Wer. And that's not the worst: who cares
For chambers? rest is all. The wretches whom
Thou namest—ay, the wind howls round them, and
The dull and dropping rain saps in their bones
The creeping marrow. I have been a soldier,
A hunter, and a traveller, and am [talk'st of.
A beggar, and should know the thing thou
Jos. And art thou not now shelter'd from [them all?
Wer. Yes. And from these alone.
Jos. And that is something.
Wer. True—to a peasant.
Jos. Should the nobly born
Be thankless for that refuge which their habits
Of early delicacy render more
Needful than to the peasant, when the ebb
Of fortune leaves them on the shoals of life?
Wer. It is not that, thou know'st it is not:
Have borne all this. I'll not say patiently, [we
Except in thee—but we have borne it.
Jos. Well?
Wer. Something beyond our outward sufferings (though
These were enough to gnaw into our souls)
Hath stung me oft, and, more than ever *now*,
When, but for this untoward sickness, which
Seized me on this desolate frontier, and
Hath wasted, not alone my strength, but means,
And leaves us—no! this is beyond me—but
For this I had been happy—*thou* been happy—
The splendor of my rank sustain'd—my name— [more
My father's name—been still upheld; and,
Than those— [Ulric,
Jos. [*abruptly.*] My son—our son—our

Been clasp'd again in these long-empty arms,
And all a mother's hunger satisfied.
Twelve years! he was but eight then:—beau-
He was, and beautiful he must be now, [tiful
My Ulric! my adored!
Wer. I have been full oft
The chase of Fortune; now she hath o'ertaken
My spirit where it cannot turn at bay,—
Sick, poor, and lonely.
Jos. Lonely! my dear husband?
Wer. Or worse—involving all I love in this
Far worse than solitude. *Alone*, I had died,
And all been over in a nameless grave. [take
Jos. And I had not outlived thee; but pray
Comfort. We have struggled long; and they who strive
With Fortune win or weary her at last,
So that they find the goal or cease to feel
Further. Take comfort,—we shall find our boy.
Wer. We were in sight of him, of everything
Which could bring compensation for past
And to be baffled thus! [sorrow—
Jos. We are not baffled.
Wer. Are we not penniless?
Jos. We ne'er were wealthy.
Wer. But I was born to wealth, and rank, and power; [them,
Enjoy'd them, loved them, and, alas! abused
And forfeited them by my father's wrath,
In my o'er-fervent youth: but for the abuse
Long sufferings have atoned. My father's death
Left the path open, yet not without snares.
This cold and creeping kinsman, who so long
Kept his eye upon me, as the snake upon
The fluttering bird, hath ere this time out-stept me,
Become the master of my rights, and lord
Of that which lifts him up to princes in Dominion and domain.
Jos. Who knows? our son
May have return'd back to his grandsire, and
Even now uphold thy rights for thee?
Wer. 'Tis hopeless.
Since his strange disappearance from my
Entailing, as it were, my sins upon [father's,
Himself, no tidings have reveal'd his course.
I parted with him to his grandsire, on
The promise that his anger would stop short
Of the third generation; but Heaven seems
To claim her sterner prerogative, and visit
Upon my boy his father's faults and follies.
Jos. I must hope better still,—at least we have yet
Baffled the long pursuit of Stralenheim.
Wer. We should have done, but for this fatal sickness;
More than a mortal malady,
Because it takes not life, but life's sole solace:
Even now I feel my spirit girt about
By the snares of this avaricious fiend:—
How do I know he hath not tracked us here?
Jos. He does not know thy person; and his spies, [Hamburgh.
Who so long watch'd thee, have been left at
Our unexpected journey, and this change
Of name, leaves all discovery far behind:
None hold us here for aught save what we seem. [*are*—sick beggars,
Wer. Save what we seem! save what we
Even to our very hopes.—Ha! ha!
Jos. Alas!
That bitter laugh!
Wer. *Who* would read in this form
The high soul of the son of a long line?
Who, in this garb, the heir of princely lands?
Who, in this sunken, sickly eye, the pride
Of rank and ancestry? In this worn cheek
And famine-hollow'd brow, the lord of halls
Which daily feast a thousand vassals?
Jos. You
Ponder'd not thus upon these worldly things,
My Werner! when you deign'd to choose for bride
The foreign daughter of a wandering exile.
Wer. An exile's daughter with an outcast son,
Were a fit marriage: but I still had hopes
To lift thee to the state we both were born for.
Your father's house was noble, though decay'd;
And worthy by its birth to match with ours.
Jos. Your father did not think so, though 'twas noble;
But had my birth been all my claim to match
With thee, I should have deem'd it what it is.
Wer. And what is that in thine eyes?
Jos. All which it
Has done in our behalf,—nothing!
Wer. How,—nothing?
Jos. Or worse; for it has been a canker in
Thy heart from the beginning: but for this,
We had not felt our poverty but as
Millions of myriads feel it, cheerfully;
But for these phantoms of thy feudal fathers,
Thou might'st have earn'd thy bread, as thousand earn it; [merce,
Or, if that seem too humble, tried by com-
Or other civic means, to amend thy fortunes.
Wer. [*ironically*]. And been an Hanseatic burgher? Excellent! [me thou art
Jos. Whate'er thou might'st have been, to
What no state high or low can ever change,
My heart's first choice;—which chose thee, knowing neither [thy sorrows:
Thy birth, thy hopes, thy pride; nought, save
While they last, let me comfort or divide them:
When they end, let mine end with them, or thee! [found thee;
Wer. My better angel! Such I have ever
This rashness, or this weakness of my temper,
Ne'er raised a thought to injure thee or thine.
Thou didst not mar my fortunes: my own nature
In youth was such as to unmake an empire,
Had such been my inheritance; but now,
Chasten'd, subdued, out-worn, and taught to know
Myself,—to lose this for our son and thee!
Trust me, when, in my two-and-twentieth spring,

My father barr'd me from my fathers' house,
The last sole scion of a thousand sires
(For I was then the last), it hurt me less
Than to behold my boy and my boy's mother
Excluded in their innocence from what
My faults deserved—exclusion; although then
My passions were all living serpents, and
Twined like the Gorgon's round me.
[*A loud knocking is heard.*
Jos. Hark!
Wer. A knocking!
Jos. Who can it be at this lone hour? We have
Few visitors.
Wer. And poverty hath none,
Save those who come to make it poorer still.
Well, I am prepared.
[WERNER *puts his hand into his bosom, as if to search for some weapon.*
Jos. Oh! do not look so. I
Will to the door. It cannot be of import
In this lone spot of wintry desolation:—
The very desert saves man from mankind.
[*She goes to the door.*

Enter IDENSTEIN.

Iden. A fair good evening to my fairer hostess
And worthy—What's your name, my friend?
Wer. Are you
Not afraid to demand it?
Iden. Not afraid?
Egad! I am afraid. You look as if
I ask'd for something better than your name,
By the face you put on it.
Wer. Better, sir!
Iden. Better or worse, like matrimony: what
Shall I say more? You have been a guest this month
Here in the prince's palace—(to be sure,
His highness had resign'd it to the ghosts
And rats these twelve years—but 'tis still a palace)—
I say you have been our lodger, and as yet
We do not know your name.
Wer. My name is Werner.
Iden. A goodly name, a very worthy name,
As e'er was gilt upon a trader's board:
I have a cousin in the lazaretto
Of Hamburgh, who has got a wife who bore
The same. He is an officer of trust,
Surgeon's assistant (hoping to be surgeon),
And has done miracles i' the way of business.
Perhaps you are related to my relative?
Wer. To yours?
Jos. Oh, yes; we are, but distantly.
[*Aside to* WERNER]. Cannot you humor the dull gossip till
We learn his purpose?
Iden. Well, I'm glad of that;
I thought so all along, such natural yearnings
Play'd round my heart:—blood is not water, cousin;
And so let's have some wine, and drink unto
Our better acquaintance: relatives should be
Friends.
Wer. You appear to have drank enough already;
And if you have not, I've no wine to offer,
Else it were yours: but this you know, or should know:
You see I am poor, and sick, and will not see
That I would be alone; but to your business!
What brings you here?
Iden. Why, what should bring me here?
Wer. I know not, though I think that I could guess
That which will send you hence.
Jos. [*aside*]. Patience, dear Werner!
Iden. You don't know what has happen'd, then?
Jos. How should we?
Iden. The river has o'erflow'd.
Jos. Alas! we have known
That to our sorrow for these five days; since
It keeps us here.
Iden. But what you don't know is,
That a great personage, who fain would cross
Against the stream and three postilions' wishes, [horses,
Is drown'd below the ford, with five post-
A monkey, and a mastiff, and a valet.
Jos. Poor creatures! are you sure?
Iden. Yes, of the monkey;
And the valet, and the cattle; but as yet
We know not if his excellency's dead
Or no; your noblemen are hard to drown,
As it is fit that men in office should be;
But what is certain is, that he has swallow'd
Enough of the Oder to have burst two peasants;
And now a Saxon and Hungarian traveller,
Who, at their proper peril, snatch'd him from
The whirling river, have sent on to crave
A lodging, or a grave, according as
It may turn out with the live or dead body.
Jos. And where will you receive him? here, I hope,
If we can be of service—say the word.
Iden. Here? no; but in the prince's own apartment,
As fits a noble guest: 'tis damp, no doubt,
Not having been inhabited these twelve years;
But then he comes from a much damper place,
So scarcely will catch cold in't, if he be
Still liable to cold—and if not, why [less,
He'll be worse lodged to-morrow; ne'erthe-
I have order'd fire and all appliances
To be got ready for the worst—that is,
In case he should survive.
Jos. Poor gentleman!
I hope he will, with all my heart.
Wer. Intendant,
Have you not learn'd his name? My Josephine,
[*Aside to his wife.*
Retire: I'll sift this fool.
[*Exit* JOSEPHINE.
Iden. His name? oh Lord!
Who knows if he hath now a name or no?
'Tis time enough to ask it when he's able
To give an answer; or if not, to put
His heir's upon his epitaph. Methought
Just now you chid me for demanding names?
Wer. True, true. I did so: you say well and wisely.

Enter GABOR.

Gab. If I intrude, I crave—
Iden. Oh, no intrusion!
This is the palace; this is a stranger like
Yourself; I pray you make yourself at home;
But where's his excellency? and how fares he?
Gab. Wetly and wearily, but out of peril:
He paused to change his garments in a cottage
(Where I doff'd mine for these, and came on hither),
And has almost recover'd from his drenching.
He will be here anon.
Iden. What ho, there! bustle!
Without there, Herman, Weilburg, Peter, Conrad!
[*Gives directions to different servants who enter.*
A nobleman sleeps here to-night—see that
All is in order in the damask chamber—
Keep up the stove—I will myself to the cellar—
And Madam Idenstein (my consort, stranger)
Shall furnish forth the bed-apparel; for,
To say the truth, they are marvellous scant of this [ness
Within the palace precincts, since his high-
Left it some dozen years ago. And then
His excellency will sup, doubtless?
Gab. Faith!
I cannot tell; but I should think the pillow
Would please him better than the table, after
His soaking in your river: but for fear
Your viands should be thrown away, I mean
To sup myself, and have a friend without
Who will do honor to your good cheer with
A traveller's appetite.
Iden. But are you sure
His excellency—But his name: what is it?
Gab. I do not know.
Iden. And yet you saved his life.
Gab. I helped my friend to do so.
Iden. Well, that's strange,
To save a man's life whom you do not know.
Gab. Not so, for there are some I know so
I scarce should give myself the trouble. [well,
Iden. Pray,
Good friend, and who may you be?
Gab. By my family,
Hungarian.
Iden. Which is call'd?
Gab. It matters little.
Iden. [*aside*]. I think that all the world are grown anonymous,
Since no one cares to tell me what he's call'd!
Pray, has his excellency a large suite?
Gab. Sufficient.
Iden. How many?
Gab. I did not count them.
We came up by mere accident, and just [dow.
In time to drag him through his carriage win-
Iden. Well, what would I give to save a great man! [compense.
No doubt you'll have a swingeing sum as re-
Gab. Perhaps.
Iden. Now, how much do you reckon on?
Gab. I have not yet put up myself to sale:
In the mean time, my best reward would be
A glass of your Hockheimer—a *green* glass,
Wreath'd with rich grapes and Bacchanal devices,
O'erflowing with the oldest of your vintage:
For which I promise you, in case you e'er
Run hazard of being drown'd (although I own
It seems, of all deaths, the least likely for you),
I'll pull you out for nothing. Quick, my friend,
And think, for every bumper I shall quaff,
A wave the less may roll above your head.
Iden. [*aside*]. I don't much like this fellow—close and dry [however,
He seems,—two things which suit me not;
Wine he shall have; if that unlock him not,
I shall not sleep to-night for curiosity.
[*Exit* IDENSTEIN.
Gab. [*to* WERNER]. This master of the ceremonies is
The intendant of the palace, I presume:
'Tis a fine building, but decay'd.
Wer. The apartment
Design'd for him you rescued will be found
In fitter order for a sickly guest.
Gab. I wonder then you occupied it not,
For you seem delicate in health.
Wer. [*quickly*]. Sir!
Gab. Pray
Excuse me: have I said aught to offend you?
Wer. Nothing: but we are strangers to each other. [us less so:
Gab. And that's the reason I would have
I thought our bustling host without had said
You were a chance and passing guest, the
Of me and my companions. [counterpart
Wer. Very true.
Gab. Then, as we never met before, and never,
It may be, may again encounter, why,
I thought to cheer up this old dungeon here
(At least to me) by asking you to share
The fare of my companions and myself.
Wer. Pray, pardon me; my health—
Gab. Even as you please.
I have been a soldier, and perhaps am blunt
In bearing.
Wer. I have also served, and can
Requite a soldier's greeting.
Gab. In what service?
The imperial?
Wer. [*quickly, and then interrupting himself*]. I commanded—no—I mean
I served; but it is many years ago,
When first Bohemia raised her banner 'gainst
The Austrian.
Gab. Well, that's over now, and peace
Has turn'd some thousand gallant hearts adrift
To live as they best may: and, to say truth,
Some take the shortest.
Wer. What is that?
Gab. Whate'er
They lay their hands on. All Silesia and
Lusatia's woods are tenanted by bands
Of the late troops, who levy on the country
Their maintenance: the Chatelains must keep

Their castle walls—beyond them 'tis but doubtful [baron.
Travel for your rich count or full-grown
My comfort is, that wander where I may,
I've little left to lose now.

Wer. And I—nothing.

Gab. That's harder still. You say you were

Wer. I was. [a soldier.

Gab. You look one still. All soldiers are
Or should be comrades, even though enemies.
Our swords when drawn must cross, our engines aim [when
(While levell'd) at each other's hearts; but
A truce, a peace, or what you will, remits
The steel into its scabbard, and lets sleep
The spark which lights the matchlock, we are brethren. [healthy;
You are poor and sickly—I am not rich, but
I want for nothing which I cannot want;
You seem devoid of this—wilt share it?

[GABOR *pulls out his purse.*

Wer. Who
Told you I was a beggar?

Gab. You, yourself,
In saying you were a soldier during peace-time.

Wer. [*looking at him with suspicion.*] You know me not?

Gab. I know no man, not even
Myself: how should I then know one I ne'er
Beheld till half an hour since?

Wer. Sir, I thank you.
Your offer's noble were it to a friend,
And not unkind as to an unknown stranger,
Though scarcely prudent; but no less I thank
I am a beggar in all save his trade; [you.
And when I beg of any one it shall be
Of him who was the first to offer what
Few can obtain by asking. Pardon me.

[*Exit* WERNER.

Gab. [*solus*]. A goodly fellow by his looks, though worn,
As most good fellows are, by pain or pleasure,
Which tear life out of us before our time;
I scarce know which most quickly; but he seems
To have seen better days, as who has not [es
Who has seen yesterday?—But here approach—
Our sage intendant, with the wine: however,
For the cup's sake I'll bear the cupbearer.

Enter IDENSTEIN.

Iden. 'Tis here! the supernaculum! twenty
Of age, if 'tis a day. [years

Gab. Which epoch makes
Young women and old wine; and 'tis great pity [years,
Of two such excellent things, increase of
Which still improves the one, should spoil the other.
Fill full—Here's to our hostess!—your fair wife! [*Takes a glass.*

Iden. Fair!—Well, I trust your taste in wine is equal
To that you show for beauty; but I pledge you
Nevertheless.

Gab. Is not the lovely woman
I met in the adjacent hall, who with [better
An air, and port, and eye, which would have
Beseem'd this palace in its brightest days
(Though in a garb adapted to its present
Abandonment), return'd my salutation—
Is not the same your spouse?

Iden. I would she were!
But you're mistaken:—that's the stranger's wife. [prince's;

Gab. And by her aspect she might be a
Though time hath touch'd her too, she still
Much beauty, and more majesty. [retains

Iden. And that
Is more than I can say for Madame Idenstein,
At least in beauty: as for majesty,
She has some of its properties, which might
Be spared—but never mind!

Gab. I don't. But who
May be this stranger? He too hath a bearing
Above his outward fortunes.

Iden. There I differ.
He's poor as Job, and not so patient; but
Who he may be, or what, or aught of him,
Except his name (and that I only learn'd
To-night), I know not.

Gab. But how came he here?

Iden. In a most miserable old caleche,
About a month since, and immediately
Fell sick, almost to death. He should have died.

Gab. Tender and true!—but why?

Iden. Why, what is life
Without a living? He has not a stiver.

Gab. In that case, I much wonder that a person
Of your apparent prudence should admit
Guests so forlorn into this noble mansion.

Iden. That's true; but pity, as you know, *does* make
One's heart commit these follies: and besides,
They had some valuables left at that time,
Which paid their way up to the present hour;
And so I thought they might as well be lodged
Here as at the small tavern, and I gave them
The run of some of the oldest palace rooms.
They served to air them at the least as long
As they could pay for firewood.

Gab. Poor souls!

Iden. Ay!
Exceeding poor.

Gab. And yet unused to poverty,
If I mistake not. Whither were they going?

Iden. Oh! Heaven knows where, unless to heaven itself.
Some days that look'd the likeliest journey
For Werner.

Gab. Werner! I have heard the name:
But it may be a feign'd one.

Iden. Like enough!
But hark! a noise of wheels and voices, and
A blaze of torches from without. As sure
As destiny, his excellency's come.
I must be at my post; will you not join me,
To help him from his carriage, and present
Your humble duty at the door?

Gab. I dragg'd him
From out that carriage when he would have
His barony or county to repel [given
The rushing river from his gurgling throat.
He has valets now enough: they stood aloof then,
Shaking their dripping oars upon the shore,
All roaring "Help!" but offering none; and
For *duty* (as you call it)—I did mine *then*,
Now do *yours*. Hence, and bow and cringe him here! [tunity—
Iden. I cringe!—but I shall lose the oppor-
Plague take it! he'll be *here*, and I *not there!*
[*Exit* IDENSTEIN *hastily.*

Re-enter WERNER.

Wer. [*to himself*]. I heard a noise of wheels and voices. How
All sounds now jar me!
Still here! Is he not [*Perceiving* GABOR.
A spy of my pursuer's. His frank offer
So suddenly, and to a stranger, wore
The aspect of a secret enemy;
For friends are slow at such.
Gab. Sir, you seem rapt;
And yet the time is not akin to thought.
These old walls will be noisy soon. The baron,
Or count (or whatsoe'er this half-drown'd noble
May be), for whom this desolate village and
Its lone inhabitants show more respect
Than did the elements, is come.
Iden. [*without.*] This way—
This way, your excellency:—have a care,
The staircase is a little gloomy, and
Somewhat decay'd; but if we had expected
So high a guest—Pray take my arm, my lord!

Enter STRALENHEIM, IDENSTEIN, *and* ATTENDANTS—*partly his own, and partly Retainers of the Domain of which* IDENSTEIN *is intendant.*

Stral. I'll rest me here a moment.
Iden. [*to the servants*]. Ho! a chair!
Instantly, knaves! [STRALENHEIM *sits down.*
Wer. [*aside*]. 'Tis he!
Stral. I'm better now.
Who are these strangers?
Iden. Please you, my good lord,
One says he is no stranger.
Wer. [*aloud and hastily*]. *Who* says that?
[*They look at him with surprise.*
Iden. Why, no one spoke *of you* or *to you!*—but
Here's one his excellency may be pleased
To recognize. [*Pointing to* GABOR.
Gab. I seek not to disturb
His noble memory.
Stral. I apprehend
This is one of the strangers to whose aid
I owe my rescue. Is not that the other?
[*Pointing to* WERNER.
My state when I was succor'd must excuse
My uncertainty to whom I owe so much.
Iden. He!—no, my lord! he rather wants for rescue
Than can afford it. 'Tis a poor sick man,
Travel-tired, and lately risen from a bed
From whence he never dream'd to rise.
Stral. Methought
That there were two.
Gab. There were, in company;
But, in the service render'd to your lordship
I needs must say but *one*, and he is absent.
The chief part of whatever aid was render'd
Was *his:* it was his fortune to be first.
My will was not inferior, but his strength
And youth outstripped me; therefore do not waste
Your thanks on me. I was but a glad second
Unto a nobler principal.
Stral. Where is he?
An Atten. My lord, he tarried in the cottage
Your excellency rested for an hour, [where
And said he would be here to-morrow.
Stral. Till
That hour arrives, I can but offer thanks,
And then—
Gab. I seek no more, and scarce deserve
So much. My comrade may speak for himself.
Stral. [*fixing his eyes upon* WERNER; *then aside*]. It cannot be! and yet he must be look'd to.
'Tis twenty years since I beheld him with
These eyes, and, though my agents still have
Theirs on him, policy has held aloof [kept
My own from his, not to alarm him into
Suspicion of my plan. Why did I leave
At Hamburgh those who would have made assurance
If this be he or no? I thought, ere now
To have been lord of Siegendorf, and parted
In haste, though even the elements appear
To fight against me, and this sudden flood
May keep me prisoner here till—
[*He pauses and looks at* WERNER; *then resumes.*
This man must
Be watch'd. If it is he, he is so changed,
His father, rising from his grave again,
Would pass him by unknown. I must be wary:
An error would spoil all.
Iden. Your lordship seems
Pensive. Will it not please you to pass on?
Stral. 'Tis past fatigue, which gives my weigh'd-down spirit
An outward show of thought. I will to rest.
Iden. The prince's chamber is prepared, with all
The very furniture the prince used when
Last here, in its full splendor.
[*Aside.*] Somewhat tatter'd,
And devilish damp, but fine enough by torch-light;
And that's enough for your right noble blood
Of twenty quarterings upon a hatchment:
So let their bearer sleep 'neath something like
Now, as he one day will forever lie. [one
Stral. [*rising and turning to* GABOR]. Good night, good people! Sir, I trust to-morrow
Will find me apter to requite your service,

In the mean time, I crave your company
A moment in my chamber.
Gab. I attend you.
Stral. [*after a few steps, pauses, and calls* WERNER]. Friend!
Wer. Sir. [you say
Iden. Sir! Lord—oh Lord! Why don't
His lordship, or his excellency? Pray,
My lord, excuse this poor man's want of breeding:
He hath not been accustom'd to admission
To such a presence.
Stral. [*to* IDENSTEIN]. Peace, intendant!
Iden. Oh!
I am dumb. [here?
Stral. [*to* WERNER]. Have you been long
Wer. Long?
Stral. I sought
An answer, not an echo.
Wer. You may seek
Both from the walls. I am not used to answer
Those whom I know not.
Stral. Indeed! Ne'ertheless
You might reply with courtesy to what
I ask'd in kindness.
Wer. When I know it such,
I will requite—that is, *reply*—in unison.
Stral. The intendant said you had been detain'd by sickness—
If I could aid you—journeying the same way?
Wer. [*quickly*]. I am not journeying the same way.
Stral. How know ye
That, ere you know my route?
Wer. Because there is
But one way that the rich and poor must tread [path
Together. You diverged from that dread
Some hours ago, and I some days: henceforth
Our roads must lie asunder, though they tend
All to one home.
Stral. Your language is above
Your station.
Wer. [*bitterly*]. Is it?
Stral. Or, at least, beyond
Your garb.
Wer. 'Tis well that it is not beneath it,
As sometimes happens to the better clad.
But, in a word, what would you with me?
Stral. [*startled*]. I?
Wer. Yes—you! you know me not, and question me,
And wonder that I answer not—not knowing
My inquisitor. Explain what you would have,
And then I'll satisfy yourself, or me.
Stral. I knew not that you had reasons for reserve.
Wer. Many have such:—Have you none?
Stral. None which can
Interest a mere stranger.
Wer. Then forgive
The same unknown and humble stranger, if
He wishes to remain so to the man
Who can have nought in common with him.
Stral. Sir,
I will not balk your humor, though untoward:
I only meant you service—but good-night!
Intendant, show the way! [*To* GABOR.]
Sir, you will with me?
[*Exeunt* STRALENHEIM *and* ATTENDANTS, IDENSTEIN *and* GABOR.
Wer. [*solus*]. 'Tis he! I am taken in the toils. Before
I quitted Hamburgh, Giulio, his late steward,
Inform'd me, that he had obtain'd an order
From Brandenburg's elector, for the arrest
Of Kruitzner (such the name I then bore) when
I came upon the frontier; the free city
Alone preserved my freedom—till I left
Its walls—fool that I was to quit them! But
I deem'd this humble garb, and route obscure,
Had baffled the slow hounds in their pursuit.
What's to be done? He knows me not by person; [sion,
Nor could aught, save the eye of apprehen-
Have recognized *him*, after twenty years,
We met so rarely and so coldly in
Our youth. But those about him! Now I can
Divine the frankness of the Hungarian, who
No doubt is a mere tool and spy of Stralenheim's,
To sound and to secure me. Without means!
Sick, poor—begirt too with the flooding rivers,
Impassable even to the wealthy, with
All the appliances which purchase modes
Of overpowering peril, with men's lives,—
How can I hope? An hour ago methought
My state beyond despair; and now, 'tis such,
The past seems paradise. Another day,
And I'm detected,—on the very eve
Of honors, rights, and my inheritance,
When a few drops of gold might save me still
In favoring an escape.

Enter IDENSTEIN *and* FRITZ *in conversation.*

Fritz. Immediately.
Iden. I tell you, 'tis impossible.
Fritz. It must
Be tried, however; and if one express
Fail, you must send on others, till the answer
Arrives from Frankfort, from the command-
Iden. I will do what I can. [ant.
Fritz. And recollect
To spare no trouble; you will be repaid
Tenfold.
Iden. The baron is retired to rest! [chair
Fritz. He hath thrown himself into an easy-
Beside the fire, and slumbers; and has order'd
He may not be disturb'd until eleven,
When he will take himself to bed.
Iden. Before
An hour is past, I'll do my best to serve him.
Fritz. Remember! [*Exit* FRITZ.
Iden. The devil take those great men; they
Think all things made for them. Now here must I
Rouse up some half a dozen shivering vassals
From their scant pallets, and, at peril of
Their lives, despatch them o'er the river towards

Frankfort. Methinks the baron's own experience [ing:
Some hours ago might teach him fellow-feel-
But no, "it *must*," and there's an end. How
Are you there, Mynheer Werner? [now?
Wer. You have left
Your noble guest right quickly.
Iden. Yes, he's dozing,
And seems to like that none should sleep be-
Here is a packet for the commandant [sides.
Of Frankfort, at all risks and expenses;
But I must not lose time: Good night! [*Exit.*
Wer. "To Frankfort!"
So, so, it thickens! Ay, "the commandant."
This tallies well with all the prior steps
Of this cool, calculating fiend, who walks
Between me and my father's house. No doubt
He writes for a detachment to convey me
Into some secret fortress.—Sooner than
This—

[WERNER *looks around, and snatches up a knife lying on a table in a recess.*

Now I am master of myself at least.
Hark,—footsteps! How do I know that Stralenheim
Will wait for even the show of that authority
Which is to overshadow usurpation?
That he suspects me's certain. I'm alone:
He with a numerous train. I weak: he strong
In gold, in numbers, rank, authority.
I nameless, or involving in my name
Destruction, till I reach my own domain;
He full-blown with his titles, which impose
Still further on these obscure petty burghers
Than they could do elsewhere. Hark! nearer still!
I'll to the secret passage which communicates
With the—No! all is silent—'twas my fancy!—
Still as the breathless interval between
The flash and thunder;—I must hush my soul
Amidst its perils. Yet I will retire,
To see if still be unexplored the passage
I wot of: it will serve me as a den
Of secrecy for some hours, at the worst.

[WERNER *draws a panel, and exit, closing it after him.*

Enter GABOR *and* JOSEPHINE.

Gab. Where is your husband?
Jos. *Here,* I thought: I left him
Not long since in his chamber. But these rooms
Have many outlets, and he may be gone
To accompany the intendant.
Gab. Baron Stralenheim
Put many questions to the intendant on
The subject of your lord, and, to be plain,
I have my doubts if he means well.
Jos. Alas!
What can there be in common with the proud
And wealthy baron, and the unknown Werner?
Gab. That you know best.
Jos. Or, if it were so, how
Come you to stir yourself in his behalf,
Rather than that of him whose life you saved?
Gab. I help'd to save him, as in peril; but I did not pledge myself to serve him in
Oppression. I know well these nobles, and
Their thousand modes of trampling on the poor. [when
I have proved them; and my spirit boils up
I find them practising against the weak:—
This is my only motive.
Jos. It would be
Not easy to persuade my consort of
Your good intentions.
Gab. Is he so suspicious?
Jos. He was not once; but time and trou-
Made him what you beheld. [bles have
Gab. I'm sorry for it.
Suspicion is a heavy armor, and [tects.
With its own weight impedes more than pro-
Good-night! I trust to meet with him at day-break. [*Exit.*

Re-enter IDENSTEIN *and some* PEASANTS. JOSEPHINE *retires up the Hall.*

First Peasant. But if I'm drown'd?
Iden. Why, you will be well paid for't,
And have risk'd more than drowning for as
I doubt not. [much,
Second Peasant. But our wives and families?
Iden. Cannot be worse off than they are,
Be better. [and may
Third Peasant. I have neither, and will venture. [to be
Iden. That's right. A gallant carle, and fit
A soldier. I'll promote you to the ranks
In the prince's body-guard—if you succeed;
And you shall have besides, in sparkling coin,
Two thalers.
Third Peasant. No more!
Iden. Out upon your avarice!
Can that low vice alloy so much ambition?
I tell thee, fellow, that two thalers in
Small change will subdivide into a treasure.
Do not five hundred thousand heroes daily
Risk lives and souls for the tithe of one thaler?
When had you half the sum?
Third Peasant. Never—but ne'er
The less I must have three.
Iden. Have you forgot
Whose vassal you were born, knave?
Third Peasant. No—the prince's,
And not the stranger's.
Iden. Sirrah! in the prince's
Absence, I am sovereign; and the baron is
My intimate connexion;—"Cousin Idenstein!
(Quoth he) you'll order out a dozen villains."
And so, you villains! troop—march—march, I
And if a single dog's ear of this packet [say;
Be sprinkled by the Oder—look to it!
For every page of paper shall a hide
Of yours be stretch'd, as parchment on a drum,
Like Ziska's skin, to beat alarm to all
Refractory vassals, who cannot effect
Impossibilities.—Away, ye earth-worms!

[*Exit, driving them out.*

Jos. [*coming forward*]. I fain would shun these scenes, too oft repeated,
Of feudal tyranny o'er petty victims;
I cannot aid, and will not witness such.

Even here, in this remote, unnamed, dull spot,
The dimmest in the district's map, exist
The insolence of wealth in poverty
O'er something poorer still—the pride of rank
In servitude, o'er something still more servile;
And vice in misery effecting still
A tatter'd splendor. What a state of being!
In Tuscany, my own dear sunny land,
Our nobles were but citizens and merchants,
Like Cosmo. We had evils, but not such
As these; and our all-ripe and gushing valleys
Made poverty more cheerful, where each herb
Was in itself a meal, and every vine [glad
Rain'd, as it were, the beverage which makes
The heart of man; and the ne'er unfelt sun
(But rarely clouded, and when clouded, leaving
His warmth behind in memory of his beams)
Makes the worn mantle, and the thin robe, less
Oppressive than an emperor's jewell'd purple.
But, here! the despots of the north appear
To imitate the ice-wind of their clime,
Searching the shivering vassal through his rags,
To wring his soul—as the bleak elements
His form. And 'tis to be amongst these sovereigns [of birth—
My husband pants! and such his pride of
That twenty years of usage, such as no
Father born in a humble state could nerve
His soul to persecute his son withal,
Hath changed no atom of his earthly nature;
But I, born nobly also, from my father's
Kindness was taught a different lesson. Father!
May thy long-tried and now rewarded spirit
Look down on us and our so long desired
Ulric! I love my son, as thou didst me!
What's that? Thou, Werner! can it be? and thus?

[*Enter* WERNER *hastily, with the knife in his hand, by the secret panel, which he closes hurriedly after him.*

Wer. [*not at first recognizing her.*] Discover'd! then I'll stab—[*recognizing her*]. Ah! Josephine,
Why art thou not at rest?
Jos. What rest? My God!
What does this mean?
Wer. [*showing a rouleau*]. Here's *gold*—*gold*, Josephine,
Will rescue us from this detested dungeon.
Jos. And how obtain'd—that knife!
Wer. 'Tis bloodless—*yet*
Away—we must to our chamber.
Jos. But whence comest thou?
Wer. Ask not! but let us think where we shall go—
This—this will make us way—[*showing the gold*]—I'll fit them now.
Jos. I dare not think thee guilty of dis-
Wer. Dishonor! [honor.
Jos. I have said it.
Wer. Let us hence:
'Tis the last night, I trust, that we need pass
Jos. And not the worst, I hope. [here.
Wer. Hope! I make *sure;*
But let us to our chamber.
Jos. Yet one question—
What hast thou *done?*
Wer. [*fiercely*]. Left one thing *undone,* which
Had made all well: let me not think of it!
Away!
Jos. Alas, that I should doubt of thee! [*Exeunt.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—*A Hall in the same Palace.*

Enter IDENSTEIN *and others.*

Iden. Fine doings! goodly doings! honest doings!
A baron pillaged in a prince's palace! [of.
Where, till this hour, such a sin ne'er was heard
Fritz. It hardly could, unless the rats despoil'd
The mice of a few shred of tapestry. [day!
Iden. Oh! that I e'er should live to see this
The honor of our city's gone forever.
Fritz. Well, but now to discover the delin-
The baron is determined not lose [quent:
This sum without a search.
Iden. And so am I.
Fritz. But whom do you suspect?
Iden. Suspect! all people
Without—within—above—below—Heaven help me!
Fritz. Is there no other entrance to the chamber?
Iden. None whatsoever.
Fritz. Are you sure of that?
Iden. Certain. I have lived and served here since my birth, [such,
And if there were such, must have heard of
Or seen it.
Fritz. Then it must be some one who
Had access to the antechamber.
Iden. Doubtless.
Fritz. The man call'd *Werner's* poor!
Iden. Poor as a miser;
But lodged so far off, in the other wing,
By which there's no communication with
The baron's chamber, that it can't be he.
Besides, I bade him "good-night" in the hall,
Almost a mile off, and which only leads
To his own apartment, about the same time
When this burglarious, larcenous felony
Appears to have been committed.
Fritz. There's another,
The stranger—
Iden. The Hungarian?
Fritz. He who help'd
To fish the baron from the Oder.
Iden. Not
Unlikely. But, hold—might it not have been
One of the suite?
Fritz. How? *We,* sir!
Iden. No—not *you,*

But some of the inferior knaves. You say
The baron was asleep in the great chair—
The velvet chair—in his embroider'd night-gown;
His toilet spread before him, and upon it
A cabinet with letters, papers, and
Several rouleaux of gold; of which *one* only
Has disappear'd:—the door unbolted, with
No difficult access to any.
Fritz. Good sir,
Be not so quick; the honor of the corps
Which form'd the baron's household's unimpeach'd
From steward to scullion, save in the fair way
Of peculation; such as in accompts,
Weights, measures, larder, cellar, buttery,
Where all men take their prey; as also in
Postage of letters, gathering of rents,
Purveying feasts, and understanding with
The honest trades who furnish noble masters;
But for your petty, picking, downright thievery,
We scorn it as we do board-wages. Then
Had one of our folks done it, he would not
Have been so poor a spirit as to hazard
His neck for *one* rouleau, but have swoop'd all;
Also the cabinet, if portable.
Iden. There is some sense in that—
Fritz. No, sir, be sure
'Twas none of our corps; but some petty, trivial
Picker and stealer, without art or genius.
The only question is—Who else could have
Access, save the Hungarian and yourself?
Iden. You don't mean me?
Fritz. No, sir; I honor more
Your talents—
Iden. And my principles, I hope.
Fritz. Of course. But to the point: What's to be done?
Iden. Nothing—but there's a good deal to be said.
We'll offer a reward; move heaven and earth;
And the police (though there's none nearer than
Frankfort); post notices in manuscript
(For we've no printer): and set by my clerk
To read them (for few can, save he and I);
We'll send out villagers to strip beggars, and
Search empty pockets; also to arrest
All gipsies, and ill-clothed and sallow people.
Prisoners we'll have at least, if not the culprit;
And for the baron's gold—if 'tis not found,
At least he shall have the full satisfaction
Of melting twice its substance in the raising
The ghost of this rouleau. Here's alchemy
For your lord's losses!
Fritz. He hath found a better.
Iden. Where?
Fritz. In a most immense inheritance.
The late Count Siegendorf, his distant kinsman,
Is dead near Prague, in his castle, and my lord
Is on his way to take possession.
Iden. Was there
No heir?
Fritz. Oh, yes; but he has disappear'd
Long from the world's eye, and perhaps the world.
A prodigal son, beneath his father's ban
For the last twenty years: for whom his sire
Refused to kill the fatted calf; and, therefore,
If living, he must chew the husks still. But
The baron would find means to silence him,
Were he to re-appear: he's politic,
And has much influence with a certain court.
Iden. He's fortunate.
Fritz. 'Tis true, there is a grandson
Whom the late count reclaim'd from his son's hands,
And educated as his heir; but then
His birth is doubtful.
Iden. How so?
Fritz. His sire made
A left-hand, love, imprudent sort of marriage,
With an Italian exile's dark-eyed daughter:
Noble, they say, too; but no match for such
A house as Siegendorf's. The grandsire ill
Could brook the alliance; and could ne'er be brought
To see the parents, though he took the son.
Iden. If he's a lad of mettle, he may yet
Dispute your claim, and weave a web that may
Puzzle your baron to unravel.
Fritz. Why,
For mettle, he has quite enough; they say,
He forms a happy mixture of his sire
And grandsire's qualities,—impetuous as
The former, and deep as the latter: but
The strangest is that he, too, disappear'd
Some months ago.
Iden. The devil he did!
Fritz. Why, yes;
It must have been at his suggestion, at
An hour so critical as was the eve
Of the old man's death, whose heart was broken by it.
Iden. Was there no cause assign'd?
Fritz. Plenty, no doubt,
And none perhaps the true one. Some averr'd
It was to seek his parents: some because
The old man held his spirit in so strictly
(But that could scarce be, for he doted on him);
A third believed he wish'd to serve in war,
But peace being made soon after his departure,
He might have since return'd, were that the motive;
A fourth set charitably have surmised, [him,
As there was something strange and mystic in
That in the wild exuberance of his nature
He had join'd the black bands, who lay waste Lusatia,
The mountains of Bohemia and Silesia,
Since the last years of war had dwindled into
A kind of general condottiero system
Of bandit warfare; each troop with its chief,
And all against mankind.
Iden. That cannot be,
A young heir, bred to wealth and luxury,
To risk his life and honors with disbanded
Soldiers and desperadoes!
Fritz. Heaven best knows!
But there are human natures so allied
Unto the savage love of enterprise,
That they will seek for peril as a pleasure,

I've heard that nothing can reclaim your In-
Or tame the tiger, though their infancy [dian,
Were fed on milk and honey. After all,
Your Wallenstein, your Tilly and Gustavus,
Your Bannier, and your Torstenson and
Weimar,
Were but the same thing upon a grand scale:
And now that they are gone, and peace pro-
claim'd,
They who would follow the same pastime must
Pursue it on their own account. Here comes
The baron, and the Saxon stranger, who
Was his chief aid in yesterday's escape,
But did not leave the cottage by the Oder
Until this morning.

Enter STRALENHEIM *and* ULRIC.

Stral. Since you have refused
All compensation, gentle stranger, save
Inadequate thanks, you almost check even
them,
Making me feel the worthlessness of words,
And blush at my own barren gratitude.
They seem so niggardly, compared with what
Your courteous courage did in my behalf—
Ulr. I pray you press the theme no further.
Stral. But
Can I not serve you? You are young, and of
That mould which throws out heroes; fair in
favor;
Brave, I know, by my living now to say so;
And doubtlessly, with such a form and heart,
Would look into the fiery eyes of war,
As ardently for glory as you dared [stranger,
An obscure death to save an unknown
In an as perilous, but opposite, element.
You are made for the service: I have served;
Have rank by birth and soldiership, and
friends, [peace
Who shall be yours. 'Tis true this pause of
Favors such views at present scantily; [ring;
But 'twill not last, men's spirits are too stir-
And, after thirty years of conflict, peace
Is but a petty war, as the times show us
In every forest, or a mere arm'd truce. [time,
War will reclaim his own; and, in the mean
You might obtain a post, which would insure
A higher soon, and, by my influence, fail not
To rise. I speak of Brandenburg, wherein
I stand well with the Elector; in Bohemia,
Like you, I am a stranger, and we are now
Upon its frontier.
Ulr. You perceive my garb
Is Saxon, and of course my service due
To my own sovereign. If I must decline
Your offer, 'tis with the same feeling which
Induced it.
Stral. Why, this is mere usury!
I owe my life to you, and you refuse
The acquittance of the interest of the debt,
To heap more obligations on me, till
I bow beneath them.
Ulr. You shall say so when
I claim the payment.
Stral. Well, sir, since you will not—
You are nobly born.
Ulr. I have heard my kinsmen say so.
Stral. Your actions show it. Might I ask
Ulr. Ulric. [your name?
Stral. Your house's?
Ulr. When I'm worthy of it,
I'll answer you.
Stral. [*aside*]. Most probably an Austrian,
Whom these unsettled times forbid to boast
His lineage on these wild and dangerous
frontiers,
Where the name of his country is abhorr'd.
[*Aloud to* FRITZ *and* IDENSTEIN.
So, sirs! how have ye sped in your researches?
Iden. Indifferent well, your excellency.
Stral. Then
I am to deem the plunderer is caught?
Iden. Humph!—not exactly.
Stral. Or at least suspected?
Iden. Oh! for that matter, very much sus-
Stral. Who may he be? [pected.
Iden. Why, don't *you* know, my lord?
Stral. How should I? I was fast asleep.
Iden. And so
Was I, and that's the cause I know no more
Than does your excellency.
Stral. Dolt!
Iden. Why, if
Your lordship, being robb'd, don't recognize
The rogue, how should I, not being robb'd,
identify
The thief among so many! In the crowd,
May it please your excellency, your thief looks
Exactly like the rest, or rather better:
'Tis only at the bar and in the dungeon,
That wise men know your felon by his features;
But I'll engage, that if seen there but once,
Whether he be found criminal or no,
His face shall be so.
Stral. [*to* FRITZ]. Prithee, Fritz, inform me
What hath been done to trace the fellow?
Fritz. Faith!
My lord, not much as yet, except conjecture.
Stral. Besides the loss (which I must own
affects me
Just now materially), I needs would find
The villain out of public motives; for
So dexterous a spoiler, who could creep
Through my attendants, and so many peopled
And lighted chambers, on my rest, and snatch
The gold before my scarce-closed eyes, would
soon
Leave bare your borough, Sir Intendant!
Iden. True;
If there were aught to carry off, my lord.
Ulr. What is all this?
Stral. You join'd us but this morning,
And have not heard that I was robb'd last
night.
Ulr. Some rumor of it reach'd me as I pass'd
The outer chambers of the palace, but
I know no further.
Stral. It is a strange business;
The intendant can inform you of the facts.
Iden. Most willingly. You see—
Stral. [*impatiently*]. Defer your tale,
Till certain of the hearer's patience.

Iden. That
Can only be approved by proofs. You see—
Stral. [*again interrupting him, and addressing* ULRIC]. In short, I was asleep upon a
My cabinet before me, with some gold [chair,
Upon it (more than I much like to lose,
Though in part only): some ingenious person
Contrived to glide through all my own attendants,
Besides those of the place, and bore away
A hundred golden ducats, which to find
I would be fain, and there's an end. Perhaps
You (as I still am rather faint) would add
To yesterday's great obligation, this, [men
Though slighter, yet not slight, to aid these
(Who seem but lukewarm) in recovering it?
Ulr. Most willingly, and without loss of time—
[*To* IDENSTEIN]. Come hither, mynheer!
Iden. But so much haste bodes
Right little speed, and—
Ulr. Standing motionless
None; so let's march: we'll talk as we go on.
Iden. But—
Ulr. Show the spot, and then I'll answer you.
Fritz. I will, sir, with his excellency's leave.
Stral. Do so, and take you old ass with you.
Fritz. Hence!
Ulr. Come on, old oracle, expound thy riddle! [*Exit with* IDENSTEIN *and* FRITZ.
Stral. [*solus*]. A stalwart, active, soldier-looking stripling,
Handsome as Hercules ere his first labor,
And with a brow of thought beyond his years
When in repose, till his eye kindles up
In answering yours. I wish I could engage him:
I have need of some such spirits near me now,
For this inheritance is worth a struggle.
And though I am not the man to yield without one,
Neither are they who now rise up between me
And my desire. The boy, they say, is a bold one;
But he hath play'd the truant in some hour
Of freakish folly, leaving fortune to [whom
Champion his claims. That's well. The father,
For years I've track'd, as does the blood-hound, never
In sight, but constantly in scent, had put me
To fault; but *here* I *have* him, and that's better.
It must be *he!* All circumstance proclaims it;
And careless voices, knowing not the cause
Of my inquiries, still confirm it.—Yes!
The man, his bearing, and the mystery
Of his arrival, and the time; the account, too,
The intendant gave (for I have not beheld her)
Of his wife's dignified but foreign aspect;
Besides the antipathy with which we met,
As snakes and lions shrink back from each other
By secret instinct that both must be foes
Deadly, without being natural prey to either;
All—all—confirm it to my mind. However,
We'll grapple, ne'ertheless. In a few hours
The order comes from Frankfort, if these waters
Rise not the higher (and the weather favors
Their quick abatement), and I'll have him safe
Within a dungeon, where he may avouch
His real estate and name; and there's no harm done, [robbery
Should he prove other than I deem. This
(Save for the actual loss) is lucky also;
He's poor, and that's suspicious—he's unknown, [proofs
And that's defenceless.—True, we have no
Of guilt,—but what hath he of innocence?
Were he a man indifferent to my prospects,
In other bearings, I should rather lay
The inculpation on the Hungarian, who
Hath something which I like not; and alone
Of all around, except the intendant, and
The prince's household and my own, had inFamiliar to the chamber. [gress

Enter GABOR.

Friend, how fare you?
Gab. As those who fare well everywhere, when they
Have supp'd and slumber'd, no great matter
And you, my lord? [how—
Stral. Better in rest than purse:
Mine inn is like to cost me dear.
Gab. I heard
Of your late loss; but 'tis a trifle to
One of your order.
Stral. You would hardly think so,
Were the loss yours.
Gab. I never had so much [not
(At once) in my whole life, and therefore am
Fit to decide. But I came here to seek you.
Your couriers are turn'd back—I have out-
In my return. [stripp'd them,
Stral. You!—Why?
Gab. I went at daybreak,
To watch for the abatement of the river,
As being anxious to resume my journey.
Your messengers were all check'd like myself:
And, seeing the case hopeless, I await
The current's pleasure.
Stral. Would the dogs were in it!
Why did they not, at least, attempt the pas-
I order'd this at all risks.
Gab. Could you order
The Oder to divide, as Moses did
The Red Sea (scarcely redder than the flood
Of the swoln stream) and be obey'd, perhaps
They might have ventured.
Stral. I must see to it:
The knaves! the slaves!—but they shall smart for this. [*Exit* STRALENHEIM.
Gab. [*solus*]. There goes my noble, feudal, self-will'd baron!
Epitome of what brave chivalry
The preux chevaliers of the good old times
Have left us. Yesterday he would have given
His lands (if he hath any), and, still dearer,
His sixteen quarterings, for as much fresh air
As would have fill'd a bladder, while he lay
Gurgling and foaming halfway through the window
Of his o'erset and water-logg'd conveyance;

And now he storms at half a dozen wretches
Because they love their lives too! Yet, he's right: [put them
'Tis strange they should, when such as he may
To hazard at his pleasure. Oh, thou world!
Thou art indeed a melancholy jest!

[*Exit* GABOR.

SCENE II.—*The Apartment of* WERNER, *in the Palace.*

Enter JOSEPHINE *and* ULRIC.

Jos. Stand back, and let me look on thee
My Ulric!—my beloved!—can it be— [again!
After twelve years?

Ulr. My dearest mother!

Jos. Yes!
My dream is realized—how beautiful!
How more than all I sigh'd for! Heaven receive
A mother's thanks!—a mother's tears of joy!
This is indeed thy work!—At such an hour,
He comes not only as a son, but savior. [too,

Ulr. If such a joy await me, it must double
What I now feel, and lighten from my heart
A part of the long debt of duty, not [give me!
Of love (for that was ne'er withheld)—for-
This long delay was not my fault.

Jos. I know it,
But cannot think of sorrow now, and doubt
If I e'er felt it, 'tis so dazzled from
My memory by this oblivious transport!—
My son!

Enter WERNER.

Wer. What have we here,—more strangers?

Jos. No!
Look upon him! What do you see?

Wer. A stripling,
For the first time—

Ulr. [*kneeling*] .For twelve long years, my

Wer. Oh, God! [father!

Jos. He faints!

Wer. No—I am better now—
Ulric! [*embraces him*].

Ulr. My father, Siegendorf!

Wer. [*starting*]. Hush! boy—
The walls may hear that name!

Ulr. What then?

Wer. Why, then—
But we will talk of that anon. Remember,
I must be known here but as Werner. Come!
Come to my arms again! Why, thou look'st all
I should have been, and was not. Josephine!
Sure 'tis no father's fondness dazzles me;
But, had I seen that form amid ten thousand
Youth of the choicest, my heart would have
This for my son! [chosen

Ulr. And yet you knew me not!

Wer. Alas! I have had that upon my soul
Which makes me look on all men with an eye
That only knows the evil at first glance. [I

Ulr. My memory served me far more fondly:
Have not forgotten aught; and ofttimes in
The proud and princely halls of—(I'll not name them,
As you say that 'tis perilous), but i' the pomp
Of your sire's feudal mansion, I look'd back
To the Bohemian mountains many a sunset,
And wept to see another day go down
O'er thee and me, with those huge hills be-
They shall not part us more. [tween us.

Wer. I know not that.
Are you aware my father is no more? [age,

Ulr. Oh, heavens! I left him in a green old
And looking like the oak, worn, but still steady
Amidst the elements, whilst younger trees
Fell fast around him. 'Twas scarce three months since.

Wer. Why did you leave him? [question?

Jos. [*embracing* ULRIC]. Can you ask that
Is he not *here?*

Wer. True; he hath sought his parents,
And found them; but oh! *how*, and in what state! [to do

Ulr. All shall be bettered. What we have
Is to proceed, and to assert our rights,
Or rather yours; for I waive all, unless
Your father has disposed in such a sort [most,
Of his broad lands as to make mine the fore-
So that I must prefer my claim for form:
But I trust better, and that all is yours.

Wer. Have you not heard of Stralenheim?

Ulr. I saved
His life but yesterday; he's here.

Wer. You saved
The serpent who will sting us all.

Ulr. You speak
Riddles: what is this Stralenheim to us?

Wer. Everything. One who claims our father's lands;
Our distant kinsman, and our nearest foe.

Ulr. I never heard his name till now. The count,
Indeed, spoke sometimes of a kinsman, who,
If his own line should fail, might be remotely
Involved in the succession; but his titles
Were never named before me—and what then?
His right must yield to ours.

Wer. Ay, if at Prague:
But here he is all-powerful: and has spread
Snares for thy father, which, if hitherto
He hath escaped them, it is by fortune, not
By favor.

Ulr. Doth he personally know you?

Wer. No; but he guesses shrewdly at my person,
As he betray'd last night; and I, perhaps,
But owe my temporary liberty
To his uncertainty.

Ulr. I think you wrong him
(Excuse me for the phrase); but Stralenheim
Is not what you prejudge him, or, if so, [ent.
He owes me something both for past and pres-
I saved his life, he therefore trusts in me.
He hath been plunder'd too, since he came hither:
Is sick; a stranger; and as such, not now
Able to trace the villain who hath robb'd him:
I have pledged myself to do so; and the business
Which brought me here was chiefly that: but I
Have found, in searching for another dross,
My own whole treasure—you, my parents!

Wer. [*agitatedly*]. Who

Taught you to mouth that name of "villain"?
Ulr. What
More noble name belongs to common thieves?
Wer. Who taught you thus to brand an
With an infernal stigma? [unknown being
Ulr. My own feelings
Taught me to name a ruffian from his deeds.
Wer. Who taught you, long-sought and ill-
found boy! that
It would be safe for my own son to insult me?
Ulr. I named a villain. What is there in
With such a being and my father? [common
Wer. Everything!
That ruffian is thy father!
Jos. Oh! my son!
Believe him not—and yet—[*her voice falters*].
Ulr. [*starts, looks earnestly at* WERNER, *and then says slowly,*] And you avow it?
Wer. Ulric, before you dare despise your father,
Learn to divine and judge his actions. Young,
Rash, new to life, and rear'd in luxury's lap,
Is it for you to measure passion's force,
Or misery's temptation? Wait—(not long,
It cometh like the night and quickly)—
Wait!— [till
Wait till, like me, your hopes are blighted—
Sorrow and shame are handmaids of your cabin;
Famine and poverty your guests at table;
Despair your bedfellow—then rise, but not
From sleep, and judge! Should that day e'er arrive— [coil'd
Should you see then the serpent, who hath
Himself around all that is dear and noble
Of you and yours, lie slumbering in your path,
With but *his* folds between your steps and happiness,
When *he*, who lives but to tear from you name,
Lands, life itself, lies at your mercy, with
Chance your conductor; midnight for your mantle;
The bare knife in your hand, and earth asleep,
Even to your deadliest foe; and he as 'twere
Inviting death, by looking like it, while
His death alone can save you:—Thank your God!
If then, like me, content with petty plunder,
You turn aside—I did so.
Ulr. But—
Wer. [*abruptly*]. Hear me!
I will not brook a human voice—scarce dare
Listen to my own—(if that be human still)—
Hear me! You do not know this man—I do.
He's mean, deceitful, avaricious. You [learn
Deem yourself safe, as young and brave; but
None are secure from desperation, few
From subtilty. My worst foe, Stralenheim,
Housed in a prince's palace, couch'd within
A prince's chamber, lay below my knife!
An instant—a mere motion—the least impulse— [earth.
Had swept him and all fears of mine from
He was within my power—my knife was raised—
Withdrawn—and I'm in his;—are you not so?
Who tells you that he knows you *not*? Who says
He hath not lured you here to end you? or
To plunge you, with your parents, in a dungeon? [*He pauses.*
Ulr. Proceed—proceed!
Wer. *Me* he hath ever known,
And hunted through each change of time—name—fortune— [men?
And why not *you*? Are you more versed in
He wound snares round me! flung along my path [spurn'd
Reptiles, whom, in my youth, I would have
Even from my presence; but, in spurning now,
Fill only with fresh venom. Will you be
More patient? Ulric—Ulric! there are crimes
Made venial by the occasion, and temptations
Which nature cannot master or forbear.
Ulr. [*who looks first at him, and then at* JOSEPHINE]. My mother!
Wer. Ah! I thought so; you have now
Only one parent. I have lost alike
Father and son, and stand alone.
Ulr. But stay!
[WERNER *rushes out of the chamber.*
Jos. [*to* ULRIC]. Follow him not, until this storm of passion [him,
Abates. Think'st thou, that were it well for
I had not follow'd?
Ulr. I obey you, mother,
Although reluctantly. My first act shall not
Be one of disobedience.
Jos. Oh! he is good!
Condemn him not from his own mouth, but trust [and for him,
To me, who have borne so much with him,
That this is but the surface of his soul,
And that the depth is rich in better things.
Ulr. These then are but my father's principles? [ciples?
My mother thinks not with him? [
Jos. Nor doth he
Think as he speaks. Alas! long years of grief
Have made him sometimes thus.
Ulr. Explain to me
More clearly, then, these claims of Stralenheim,
That, when I see the subject in its bearings,
I may prepare to face him, or at least
To extricate you from your present perils.
I pledge myself to accomplish this—but would
I had arrived a few hours sooner!
Jos. Ay!
Hadst thou but done so!

Enter GABOR *and* IDENSTEIN, *with* ATTENDANTS.

Gab. [*to* ULRIC]. I have sought you, comrade.
So this is my reward! [
Ulr. What do you mean?
Gab. 'Sdeath! have I lived to these years, and for this? [would—
[*To* IDENSTEIN], But for your age and folly, I
Iden. Help!
Hands off. Touch an intendant!
Gab. Do not think
I'll honor you so much as save your throat

From the Ravenstone * by choking you myself. [are
Iden. I thank you for the respite: but there
Those who have greater need of it than me.
Ulr. Unriddle this vile wrangling, or—
Gab. At once, then,
The baron has been robb'd, and upon me
This worthy personage has deign'd to fix
His kind suspicions—me! whom he ne'er saw
Till yester' evening.
Iden. Wouldst have me suspect
My own acquaintances? You have to learn
That I keep better company.
Gab. You shall.
Keep the best shortly, and the last for all men,
The worms! you hound of malice!
[GABOR *seizes on him.*
Ulr. [*interfering*]. Nay, no violence;
He's old, unarm'd—be temperate, Gabor.
Gab. [*letting go* IDENSTEIN]. True:
I am a fool to lose myself because
Fools deem me knave: it is their homage.
Ulr. [*to* IDENSTEIN.] How
Fare you?
Iden. Help!
Ulr. I *have* helped you.
Iden. Kill him! then
I'll say so.
Gab. I am calm—live on!
Iden. That's more
Than you shall do, if there be judge or judg-
In Germany. The baron shall decide! [ment
Gab. Does *he* abet you in your accusation?
Iden. Does he not?
Gab. Then next time let him go sink
Ere I go hang for snatching him from drown-
But here he comes. [ing.

Enter STRALENHEIM.

Gab. [*goes up to him.*] My noble lord, I'm
Stral. Well, sir! [here!
Gab. Have you aught with me?
Stral. What should I
Have with you?
Gab. You know best, if yesterday's
Flood has not wash'd away your memory;
But that's a trifle. I stand here accused,
In phrases not equivocal, by yon
Intendant, of the pillage of your person
Or chamber:—Is the charge your own or his?
Stral. I accuse no man.
Gab. Then you acquit me, baron?
Stral. I know not whom to accuse, or to
Or scarcely to suspect. [acquit,
Gab. But you at least
Should know whom *not* to suspect. I am insulted—
Oppress'd here by these menials, and I look
To you for remedy—teach them their duty!
To look for thieves at home were part of it,
If duly taught; but in one word, if I
Have an accuser, let it be a man
Worthy to be so of a man like me.
I am your equal.
Stral. You!
Gab. Ay, sir; and, for
Aught that you know, superior; but proceed—
I do not ask for hints and surmises,
And circumstance, and proof: I know enough
Of what I have done for you, and what you owe me,
To have at least waited your payment rather
Than paid myself, had I been eager of
Your gold. I also know, that were I even
The villain I am deem'd, the service render'd
So recently would not permit you to
Pursue me to the death, except through shame,
Such as would leave your scutcheon but a
But this is nothing: I demand of you [blank.
Justice upon your unjust servants, and
From your own lips a disavowal of
All sanction of their insolence: thus much
You owe to the unknown, who asks no more,
And never thought to have ask'd so much.
Stral. This tone
May be of innocence.
Gab. 'Sdeath! who dare doubt it,
Except such villains as ne'er had it?
Stral. You
Are hot, sir.
Gab. Must I turn an icicle
Before the breath of menials, and their master?
Stral. Ulric! you know this man; I found
Your company. [him in
Gab. We found *you* in the Oder,
Would we had left you there!
Stral. I give you thanks, sir.
Gab. I've earn'd them; but might have earn'd more from others,
Perchance, if I had left you to your fate.
Stral. Ulric! you know this man?
Gab. No more than you do,
If he avouches not my honor.
Ulr. I
Can vouch your courage, and, as far as my
Own brief connection led me, honor.
Stral. Then
I am satisfied.
Gab. [*ironically*]. Right easily, methinks.
What is the spell in his asseveration
More than in mine?
Stral. I merely said that *I*
Was satisfied—not that you are absolved.
Gab. Again! Am I accused or no?
Stral. Go to!
You wax too insolent. If circumstance
And general suspicion be against you,
Is the fault mine? Is't not enough that I
Decline all question of your guilt or innocence?
Gab. My lord, my lord, this is mere cozen-
A vile equivocation; you well know [age,
Your doubts are certainties to all around you— [you
Your looks a voice—your frowns a sentence;
Are practising your power on me—because
You have it; but beware! you know not whom
You strive to tread on.

* The Ravenstone, "Rabenstein," is the stone gibbet of Germany, and is so called from the ravens perching on it.

Stral. Threat'st thou?
Gab. Not so much
As you accuse. You hint the basest perjury,
And I retort it with an open warning.
Stral. As you have said, 'tis true I owe you something,
For which you seem disposed to pay yourself.
Gab. Not with your gold.
Stral. With bootless insolence.
[*To his* ATTENDANTS *and* IDENSTEIN.
You need not further molest this man,
But let him go his way. Ulric, good-morrow!
[*Exit* STRALENHEIM, IDENSTEIN, *and* ATTENDANTS.
Gab. [*following*]. I'll after him and—
Ulr. [*stopping him*]. Not a step.
Gab. Who shall
Oppose me?
Ulr. Your own reason, with a moment's
Thought.
Gab. Must I bear this?
Ulr. Pshaw! we must all bear
The arrogance of something higher than
Ourselves—the highest cannot temper Satan,
Nor the lowest his vicegerents upon earth.
I've seen you brave the elements, and bear
Things which had made this silkworm cast his skin— [words?
And shrink you from a few sharp sneers and
Gab. Must I bear to be deem'd a thief? If 'twere [it—
A bandit of the woods, I could have borne
There's something daring in it;—but to steal
The moneys of a slumbering man!—
Ulr. It seems, then,
You are *not* guilty.
Gab. Do I hear aright?
You too!
Ulr. I merely asked a simple question.
Gab. If the judge ask'd me,—I would answer "No"—
To you I answer *thus*. [*He draws.*
Ulr. [*drawing*]. With all my heart!
Jos. Without there! Ho! help! help!—Oh, God! here's murder!
[*Exit* JOSEPHINE *shrieking.*

GABOR *and* ULRIC *fight.* GABOR *is disarmed just as* STRALENHEIM, JOSEPHINE, IDENSTEIN, *etc., re-enter.*

Jos. Oh! glorious heaven! He's safe!
Stral. [*to* JOSEPHINE]. *Who's* safe?
Jos. My—
Ulr. [*interrupting her with a stern look, and turning afterward to* STRALENHEIM]. Both!
Here's no great harm done.
Stral. What hath caused all this?
Ulr. You, baron, I believe; but as the effect
Is harmless, let it not disturb you.—Gabor!
There is your sword; and when you bare it
Let it not be against your *friends*. [next,
[ULRIC *pronounces the last words slowly and emphatically in a low voice to* GABOR.
Gab. I thank you
Less for my life than for your counsel,
Stral. These
Brawls must end here.
Gab. [*taking his sword*]. They *shall*. You've wrong'd me, Ulric, [would
More with your unkind thoughts than sword:
The last were in my bosom rather than
The first in yours. I could have borne you
Absurd insinuations—ignorance [noble's
And dull suspicion are a part of his
Entail will last him longer than his lands.—
But I may fit *him* yet: you have vanquish'd
I was the fool of passion to conceive [me.
That I could cope with you, whom I had seen
Already proved by greater perils than
Rest in this arm. We may meet by and by,
However—but in friendship. [*Exit* GABOR.
Stral. I will brook
No more! This outrage following up his insults,
Perhaps his guilt, has cancell'd all the little
I owed him heretofore for the so-vaunted
Aid which he added to your able succor.
Ulric, you are not hurt?—
Ulr. Not even by a scratch.
Stral. [*to* IDENSTEIN]. Intendant! take your measures to secure
Yon fellow: I revoke my former lenity.
He shall be sent to Frankfort with an escort,
The instant that the waters have abated.
Iden. Secure him! He hath got his sword again—
And seems to know the use on't; 'tis his trade,
Belike;—I'm a civilian.
Stral. Fool! are not
Yon score of vassals dogging at your heels
Enough to seize a dozen such? Hence! after
Ulr. Baron, I beseech you! [him!
Stral. I must be
Obey'd. No words!
Iden. Well, if it must be so—
March, vassals! I'm your leader and will bring
The rear up: a wise general never should
Expose his precious life—on which all rests.
I like that article of war.
[*Exit* IDENSTEIN *and* ATTENDANTS.
Stral. Come hither,
Ulric; what does that woman here? Oh! now
I recognize her, 'tis the stranger's wife
Whom they *name* "Werner."
Ulr. 'Tis his name.
Stral. Indeed!
Is not your husband visible, fair dame?—
Jos. Who seeks him?
Stral. No one—for the present: but
I fain would parley, Ulric, with yourself
Alone.
Ulr. I will retire with you.
Jos. Not so;
You are the latest stranger, and command
All places here. [have a care—
[*Aside to* ULRIC, *as she goes out.*] O Ulric!
Remember what depends on a rash word!
Ulr. [*to* JOSEPHINE]. Fear not!—
[*Exit* JOSEPHINE.
Stral. Ulric, I think that I may trust you;

You saved my life—and acts like these beget
Unbounded confidence.
Ulr. Say on.
Stral. Mysterious
And long-engender'd circumstances (not
To be now fully enter'd on) have made
This man obnoxious—perhaps fatal to me.
Ulr. Who? Gabor—the Hungarian?
Stral. No—this "Werner"—
With the false name and habit.
Ulr. How can this be?
He is the poorest of the poor—and yellow
Sickness sits cavern'd in his hollow eye:
The man is helpless.
Stral. He is—'tis no matter;—
But if he be the man I deem (and that
He is so, all around us here—and much
That is not here—confirm my apprehension),
He must be made secure ere twelve hours further.
Ulr. And what have I to do with this?
Stral. I have sent
To Frankfort, to the governor, my friend,
(I have the authority to do so by
An order of the house of Brandenburg),
For a fit escort—but this cursed flood
Bars all access, and may do for some hours.
Ulr. It is abating.
Stral. That is well.
Ulr. But how
Am I concern'd?
Stral. As one who did so much
For me, you cannot be indifferent to
That which is of more import to me than
The life you rescued.—Keep your eye on *him!*
The man avoids me, knows that I now know him.—
Watch him!—as you would watch the wild boar when
He makes against you in the hunter's gap—
Like him he must be spear'd.
Ulr. Why so?
Stral. He stands
Between me and a brave inheritance!
Oh! could you see it! But you shall.
Ulr. I hope so.
Stral. It is the richest of the rich Bohemia,
Unscathed by scorching war. It lies so near
The strongest city, Prague, that fire and sword
Have skimm'd it lightly: so that now, besides
Its own exuberance, it bears double value
Confronted with whole realms far and near
Made deserts.
Ulr. You describe it faithfully.
Stral. Ay—could you see it, you would say so—but
As I have said, you shall.
Ulr. I accept the omen.
Stral. Then claim a recompense from it and me,
Such as *both* may make worthy your acceptance
And services to me and mine forever.
Ulr. And this sole, sick, and miserable wretch—
This wayworn stranger—stands between you and
This Paradise?—(As Adam did between
The devil and his).—[*Aside.*]
Stral. He doth.
Ulr. Hath he no right?
Stral. Right! none. A disinherited prodigal,
Who for these twenty years disgraced his lineage
In all his acts—but chiefly by his marriage,
And living amidst commerce-fetching burghers,
And dabbling merchants, in a mart of Jews.
Ulr. He has a wife, then?
Stral. You'd be sorry to
Call such your mother. You have seen the woman
He *calls* his wife.
Ulr. Is she not so?
Stral. No more
Than he's your father:—an Italian girl,
The daughter of a banish'd man, who lives
On love and poverty with this same Werner.
Ulr. They are childless, then?
Stral. There is or was a bastard,
Whom the old man—the grandsire (as old age
Is ever doting) took to warm his bosom,
As it went chilly downward to the grave:
But the imp stands not in my path—he has fled,
No one knows whither; and if he had not,
His claims alone were too contemptible
To stand.—Why do you smile?
Ulr. At your vain fears:
A poor man almost in his grasp—a child
Of doubtful birth—can startle a grandee!
Stral. All's to be fear'd, where all is to be gain'd.
Ulr. True; and aught done to save or to obtain it.
Stral. You have harp'd the very string next to my heart.
I may depend upon you?
Ulr. 'Twere too late
To doubt it.
Stral. Let no foolish pity shake
Your bosom (for the appearance of the man
Is pitiful)—he is a wretch, as likely suspected,
To have robb'd me as the fellow more sus-
Except that circumstance is less against him;
He being lodged far off, and in a chamber
Without approach to mine; and, to say truth,
I think too well of blood allied to mine,
To deem he would descend to such an act:
Besides, he was a soldier, and a brave one
Once—though too rash.
Ulr. And they, my lord, we know
By our experience, never plunder till
They knock the brains out first—which makes them heirs, lose nothing,
Not thieves. The dead, who feel nought, can
Nor e'er be robb'd: their spoils are a bequest—
No more.
Stral. Go to! you are a wag. But say
I may be sure you'll keep an eye on this man,
And let me know his slightest movement towards
Concealment or escape?
Ulr. You may be sure
You yourself could not watch him more than I
Will be his sentinel.
Stral. By this you make me
Yours, and forever.
Ulr. Such is my intention.
[*Exeunt.*

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*A Hall in the same Palace, from whence the secret passage leads.*

Enter WERNER *and* GABOR.

Gab. Sir, I have told my tale: if it so please you
To give me a refuge for a few hours, well—
If not, I'll try my fortune elsewhere.
Wer. How
Can I, so wretched, give to Misery
A shelter?—wanting such myself as much
As e'er the hunted deer a covert—
Gab. Or
The wounded lion his cool cave. Methinks
You rather look like one would turn at bay,
And rip the hunter's entrails.
Wer. Ah!
Gab. I care not
If it be so, being much disposed to do
The same myself. But will you shelter me?
I am oppress'd like you—and poor like you—
Disgraced— [disgraced?
Wer. [*abruptly*]. Who told you that I was
Gab. No one: nor did I say *you* were so: with
Your poverty my likeness ended; but
I said *I* was so—and would add, with truth,
As undeservedly as *you*.
Wer. Again!
As *I*?
Gab. Or any other honest man.
What the devil would you have? You don't
Guilty of this base theft? [believe me
Wer. No, no—I cannot.
Gab. Why, that's my heart of honor! you young gallant—
Your miserly intendant and dense noble—
All—all suspected me; and why? because
I am the worst clothed and least named amongst them:
Although, were Momus' lattice in our breasts,
My soul might brook to open it more widely
Than theirs: but thus it is—you poor and help-
Both still more than myself. [less
Wer. How knew you that?
Gab. You're right: I ask for shelter at the hand
Which I call helpless; if you now deny it,
I were well paid. But you, who seem to have proved
The wholesome bitterness of life, know well,
By sympathy, that all the outspread gold
Of the New World the Spaniard boasts about,
Could never tempt the man who knows its worth
Weigh'd at its proper value in the balance,
Save in such guise (and there I grant its power,
Because I feel it) as may leave no nightmare
Upon his heart o' nights.
Wer. What do you mean?
Gab. Just what I say; I thought my speech was plain;
You are no thief—nor I—and, as true men,
Should aid each other.
Wer. It is a damn'd world, sir.
Gab. So is the nearest of the two next, as
The priests say (and no doubt they should know best),
Therefore I'll stick by this—as being loath
To suffer martyrdom, at least with such
An epitaph as larceny upon my tomb.
It is but a night's lodging which I crave;
To-morrow I will try the waters, as
The dove did, trusting that they have abated.
Wer. Abated? Is there hope of that?
Gab. There was
At noontide.
Wer. Then we may be safe.
Gab. Are *you*
In peril?
Wer. Poverty is ever so.
Gab. That I know by long practice. Will
Promise to make mine less? [you not
Wer. Your poverty?
Gab. No—you don't look a leech for that disorder;
I meant my peril only: you've a roof,
And I have none; I merely seek a covert.
Wer. Rightly; for how should such a
Have gold? [wretch as I
Gab. Scarce honestly, to say the truth on't,
Although I almost wish you had the baron's.
Wer. Dare you insinuate?
Gab. What?
Wer. Are you aware
To whom you speak?
Gab. No; and I am not used
Greatly to care. [*A noise heard without.*] But hark! they come!
Wer. Who come?
Gab. The intendant and his man-hounds after me:
I'd face them—but it were in vain to expect
Justice at hands like theirs. Where shall I go?
But show me any place. I do assure you,
If there be faith in man, I am most guiltless:
Think if it were your own case!
Wer. [*aside*]. Oh, just God!
Thy hell is not hereafter! Am I dust still?
Gab. I see you are moved: and it shows
I may live to requite it. [well in you:
Wer. Are you not
A spy of Stralenheim's?
Gab. Not I! and if
I were, what is there to espy in you?
Although, I recollect, his frequent question
About you and your spouse might lead to some
Suspicion; but you best know—what—and
I am his deadliest foe. [why,
Wer. *You?*
Gab. After such
A treatment for the service which in part
I render'd him, I am his enemy;
If you are not his friend, you will assist me.
Wer. I will.
Gab. But how? [spring:
Wer. [*showing the panel*]. There is a secret
Remember, I discover'd it by chance,
And used it but for safety.
Gab. Open it,
And I will use it for the same.
Wer. I found it,

As I have said: it leads through winding walls
(So thick as to bear paths within their ribs,
Yet lose no jot of strength or stateliness),
And hollow cells, and obscure niches, to
I know not whither; you must not advance:
Give me your word.
Gab. It is unnecessary:
How should I make my way in darkness through
A Gothic labyrinth of unknown windings?
Wer. Yes, but who knows to what place it may lead? [might not
I know not—mark you!—but who knows it
Lead even into the chamber of our foe?
So strangely were contrived these galleries
By our Teutonic fathers in old days,
When man built less against the elements
Than his next neighbor. You must not advance
Beyond the two first windings; if you do
(Albeit I never pass'd them), I'll not answer
For what you may be led to.
Gab. But I will.
A thousand thanks!
Wer. You'll find the spring more obvious
On the other side; and, when you would re-
It yields to the least touch. [turn,
Gab. I'll in—farewell!
[GABOR *goes in by the secret panel.*
Wer. [*solus*]. What have I done? Alas! what *had* I done
Before to make this fearful? Let it be
Still some atonement that I save the man,
Whose sacrifice had saved perhaps my own—
They come! to seek elsewhere what is before them!

Enter IDENSTEIN *and others.*

Iden. Is he not here? He must have vanish'd then
Through the dim Gothic glass by pious aid
Of pictured saints upon the red and yellow
Casements, through which the sunset streams like sunrise [crosses,
On long pearl-color'd beards and crimson
And gilded crosiers, and cross'd arms, and cowls, [swords,
And helms, and twisted armor, and long
All the fantastic furniture of windows [whose
Dim with brave knights and holy hermits,
Likeness and fame alike rest in some panes
Of crystal, which each rattling wind proclaims
As frail as any other life or glory.
He's gone, however.
Wer. Whom do you seek?
Iden. A villain.
Wer. Why need you come so far, then?
Iden. In the search
Of him who robb'd the baron.
Wer. Are you sure
You have divined the man?
Iden. As sure as you
Stand there: but where's he gone?
Wer. Who?
Iden. He we sought.
Wer. You see he is not here.
Iden. And yet we traced him
Up to this hall. Are you accomplices?
Or deal you in the black art?
Wer. I deal plainly.
To many men the blackest.
Iden. It may be
I have a question or two for yourself
Hereafter: but we must continue now
Our search for 'tother.
Wer. You had best begin
Your inquisition now: I may not be
So patient always.
Iden. I should like to know,
In good sooth, if you really are the man
That Stralenheim's in quest of.
Wer. Insolent!
Said you not that he was here?
Iden. Yes, *one;*
But there's another whom he tracks more
And soon, it may be, with authority [keenly,
Both paramount to his and mine. But come!
Bustle, my boys! we are at fault.
[*Exit* IDENSTEIN *and* ATTENDANTS.
Wer. In what
A maze hath my dim destiny involved me!
And one base sin hath done me less ill than
The leaving undone one far greater. Down,
Thou busy devil, rising in my heart! [blood!
Thou art too late! I'll nought to do with

Enter ULRIC.

Ulr. I sought you, father.
Wer. Is't not dangerous?
Ulr. No; Stralenheim is ignorant of all
Or any of the ties between us: more—
He sends me here to spy upon your actions,
Deeming me wholly his.
Wer. I cannot think of it:
'Tis but a snare he winds about us both,
To swoop the sire and son at once.
Ulr. I cannot
Pause in each petty fear, and stumble at
The doubts that rise like briers in our path,
But must break through them, as an unarm'd carle [wolf rustling
Would, though with naked limbs, were the
In the same thicket where he hew'd for bread.
Nets are for thrushes, eagles are not caught so:
We'll overfly or rend them.
Wer. Show me *how?*
Ulr. Can you not guess?
Wer. I cannot.
Ulr. That is strange.
Came the thought ne'er into your mind *last night?*
Wer. I understand you not.
Ulr. Then we shall never
More understand each other. But to change
The topic—
Wer. You mean to *pursue* it, as
'Tis of our safety.
Ulr. Right; I stand corrected.
I see the subject now more clearly, and
Our general situation in its bearings.
The waters are abating; a few hours
Will bring his summon'd myrmidons from Frankfort,

When you will be a prisoner, perhaps worse,
And I an outcast, bastardized by practice
Of this same baron to make way for him.
Wer. And now your remedy! I thought to escape
By means of this accursed gold; but now
I dare not use it, show it, scarce look on it.
Methinks it wears upon its face my guilt
For motto, not the mintage of the state;
And for the sovereign's head, my own begirt
With hissing snakes, which curl around my temples,
And cry to all beholders—Lo! a villain!
Ulr. You must not use it, at least now; but take
This ring. [*He gives* WERNER *a jewel.*
Wer. A gem! It was my father's!
Ulr. And
As such is now your own. With this you must
Bribe the intendant for his old caleche
And horses to pursue your route at sunrise,
Together with my mother.
Wer. And leave you,
So lately found, in peril too!
Ulr. Fear nothing!
The only fear were if we fled together,
For that would make our ties beyond all
The waters only lie in flood between [doubt.
This burgh and Frankfort; so far's in our favor.
The route on to Bohemia, though encumber'd,
Is not impassable; and when you gain
A few hours' start, the difficulties will be
The same to your pursuers. Once beyond
The frontier, and you're safe.
Wer. My noble boy!
Ulr. Hush! hush! no transports: we'll indulge in them
In Castle Siegendorf! Display no gold:
Show Idenstein the gem! (I know the man,
And have look'd through him): it will answer thus
A double purpose. Stralenheim lost *gold*—
No jewel; therefore it could *not* be his;
And then the man who was possest of this
Can hardly be suspected of abstracting
The baron's coin, when he could thus convert
This ring to more than Stralenheim has lost
By his last night's slumber. Be not over timid
In your address, nor yet too arrogant,
And Idenstein will serve you.
Wer. I will follow
In all things your direction.
Ulr. I would have
Spared you the trouble: but had I appear'd
To take an interest in you, and still more
By dabbling with a jewel in your favor,
All had been known at once.
Wer. My guardian angel!
This overpays the past. But how wilt thou
Fare in our absence?
Ulr. Stralenheim knows nothing
Of me as aught of kindred with yourself.
I will but wait a day or two with him
To lull all doubts, and then rejoin my father.
Wer. To part no more!
Ulr. I know not that; but at
The least we'll meet again once more.
Wer. My boy!
My friend! my only child, and sole preserver!
Oh, do not hate me!
Ulr. Hate my father!
Wer. Ay,
My father hated me. Why not my son?
Ulr. Your father knew you not as I do.
Wer. Scorpions
Are in thy words! Thou know me? in this guise
Thou canst not know me, I am not myself;
Yet (hate me not) I will be soon.
Ulr. I'll *wait!*
In the mean time be sure that all a son
Can do for parents shall be done for mine.
Wer. I see it, and I feel it; yet I feel
Further—that you despise me.
Ulr. Wherefore should I?
Wer. Must I repeat my humiliation?
Ulr. No!
I have fathom'd it and you. But let us talk
Of this no more. Or if it must be ever,
Not *now.* Your error has redoubled all
The present difficulties of our house,
At secret war with that of Stralenheim:
All we have now to think of is to baffle
HIM. I have shown *one* way.
Wer. The only one,
And I embrace it, as I did my son.
Who show'd *himself* and father's *safety* in
One day.
Ulr. You *shall* be safe; let that suffice.
Would Stralenheim's appearance in Bohemia
Disturb your right, or mine, if once we were
Admitted to our lands?
Wer. Assuredly,
Situate as we are now, although the first
Possessor might, as usual, prove the strongest,
Especially the next in blood.
Ulr. *Blood!* 'tis
A word of many meanings; in the veins,
And out of them, it is a different thing—
And so it should be, when the same in blood
(As it is call'd) are aliens to each other,
Like Theban brethren; when a part is bad,
A few spilt ounces purify the rest.
Wer. I do not apprehend you.
Ulr. That may be—
And should, perhaps—and yet—but get ye ready;
You and my mother must away to-night.
Here comes the intendant; sound him with the gem;
'Twill sink into his venal soul like lead
Into the deep, and bring up slime and mud,
And ooze too, from the bottom, as the lead doth
With its greased understratum; but no less
Will serve to warn our vessels through these shoals.
The freight is rich, so heave the line in time!
Farewell! I scarce have time, but yet your hand,
My father!—
Wer. Let me embrace thee!
Ulr. We may be

Observed! subdue your nature to the hour!
Keep off from me as from your foe!
Wer. Accursed
Be he who is the stifling cause which smothers
The best and sweetest feeling of our hearts!
At such an hour too!
Ulr. Yes, curse—it will ease you!
Here is the intendant.

Enter IDENSTEIN.

Master Idenstein,
How fare you in your purpose? Have you
The rogue? [caught
Iden. No, faith!
Ulr. Well, there are plenty more:
You may have better luck another chase.
Where is the baron?
Iden. Gone back to his chamber:
And now I think on't, asking after you
With nobly-born impatience.
Ulr. Your great men
Must be answer'd on the instant, as the bound
Of the stung steed replies unto the spur:
'Tis well they have horses, too; for if they had not,
I fear that men must draw their chariots, as
They say kings did Sesostris.
Iden. Who was he?
Ulr. An old Bohemian—an imperial gipsy.
Iden. A gipsy or Bohemian, 'tis the same,
For they pass by both names. And was he one? [Intendant,
Ulr. I've heard so; but I must take leave.
Your servant!—Werner [*to* WERNER *slightly*], if that be your name,
Yours. [*Exit* ULRIC.
Iden. A well-spoken, pretty-faced young man!
And prettily behaved! He knows his station,
You see, sir: how he gave to each his due
Precedence!
Wer. I perceived it, and applaud
His just discernment and your own.
Iden. That's well—
That's very well. You also know your place, too;
And yet I don't know that I know your place.
Wer. [*showing the ring*]. Would this assist your knowledge?
Iden. How!—What!—Eh!
A jewel.
Wer. 'Tis your own on one condition.
Iden. Mine!—Name it!
Wer. That hereafter you permit me
At thrice its value to redeem it: 'tis
A family ring.
Iden. A family! *yours!* a gem!
I'm breathless!
Wer. You must also furnish me,
An hour ere daybreak, with all means to quit
This place.
Iden. But is it real? Let me look on it:
Diamond, by all that's glorious!
Wer. Come, I'll trust you:
You have guess'd, no doubt, that I was born
My present seeming. [above

Iden. I can't say I did,
Though this looks like it: this is the tru
Of gentle blood! [breedin
Wer. I have important reasons
For wishing to continue privily
My journey hence.
Iden. So then *you are* the ma
Whom Stralenheim's in quest of?
Wer. I am no
But being taken for him might conduct
To much embarrassment to me just now,
And to the baron's self hereafter—'tis
To spare both that I would avoid all bustle.
Iden. Be you the man or no, 'tis not m
business;
Besides, I never could obtain the half [rais
From this proud, niggardly noble, who woul
The country for some missing bits of coin,
And never offer a precise reward—
But *this!* another look!
Wer. Gaze on it freely
At day-dawn it is yours.
Iden. Oh, thou sweet sparkle
Thou more than stone of the philosopher!
Thou touchstone of Philosophy herself!
Thou bright eye of the Mine! thou loadstar o
The soul! the true magnetic Pole to which
All hearts point duly north, like tremblin
needles! [tin
Thou flaming spirit of the earth! which, si
High on the monarch's diadem, attractest
More worship than the majesty who sweats
Beneath the crown which makes his hea
ache, like [tr
Millions of hearts which bleed to lend it lu
Shalt thou be mine? I am, methinks, alread
A little king, a lucky alchemist—
A wise magician, who has bound the devil
Without the forfeit of his soul. But come,
Werner, or what else?
Wer. Call me Werner stil
You may yet know me by a loftier title.
Iden. I do believe in thee! thou art t
spirit [garb,
Of whom I long have dream'd in a lo
But come, I'll serve thee! thou shalt be as fr
As air, despite the waters; let us hence:
I'll show thee I am honest—(oh, thou jewel
Thou shalt be furnish'd, Werner, with suc
means
Of flight, that if thou wert a snail, not bir
Should overtake thee.—Let me gaze again
I have a foster brother in the mart [ma
Of Hamburgh skill'd in precious stones—Ho
Carats may it weigh?—Come, Werner, I wi
wing thee. [*Exeun*

SCENE II.—STRALENHEIM'S *Chamber.*

STRALENHEIM *and* FRITZ.

Fritz. All's ready, my good lord!
Stral. I am not sleep
And yet I must to bed; I fain would say
To rest, but something heavy on my spirit,
Too dull for wakefulness, too quick for slu
Sits on me as a cloud along the sky, [be

Which will not let the sunbeams through, nor yet
Descend in rain and end, but spreads itself
'Twixt earth and heaven, like envy between
And man, an everlasting mist:—I will [man
Unto my pillow.
Fritz. May you rest there well!
Stral. I feel, and fear, I shall.
Fritz. And wherefore fear?
Stral. I know not why, and therefore do fear more,
Because an undescribable—but 'tis
All folly. Were the locks (as I desired)
Changed, to-day, of this chamber? for last
Adventure makes it needful. [night's
Fritz. Certainly,
According to your order, and beneath
The inspection of myself and the young Saxon
Who saved your life. I think they call him "Ulric." [what right
Stral. You *think!* you supercilious slave!
Have you to *tax your* memory, which should be
Quick, proud, and happy to retain the *name*
Of him who saved your master, as a litany
Whose daily repetition marks your duty?—
Get hence! "*You think*," indeed! you, who stood still
Howling and dripping on the bank, whilst I
Lay dying, and the stranger dash'd aside
The roaring torrent, and restored me to
Thank him—and despise you. "*You think!*" and scarce
Can recollect his name! I will not waste
More words on you. Call me betimes.
Fritz. Good-night!
I trust to-morrow will restore your lordship
To renovated strength and temper.
[*The scene closes.*

SCENE III.—*The secret Passage.*

Gab. [*solus*]. Four—
Five—six hours have I counted, like the guard
Of outposts on the never-merry clock;
That hollow tongue of time, which, even when
It sounds for joy, takes something from enjoyment
With every clang. 'Tis a perpetual knell,
Though for a marriage feast it rings: each stroke
Peals for a hope the less; the funeral note
Of Love deep-buried without resurrection
In the grave of Possession: while the knell
Of long-lived parents finds a jovial echo
To triple Time in the son's ear.
I'm cold—
I'm dark;—I've blown my fingers—number'd o'er [against
And o'er my steps—and knock'd my head
Some fifty buttresses—and roused the rats
And bats in general insurrection, till
Their cursed pattering feet and whirling wings
Leave me scarce hearing for another sound.
A light! It is at distance (if I can
Measure in darkness distance): but it blinks
As through a crevice or a keyhole in
The inhibited direction; I must on,
Nevertheless, from curiosity.
A distant lamp-light is an incident [me
In such a den as this. Pray Heaven it lead
To nothing that may tempt me! Else—Heaven aid me
To obtain or to escape it! Shining still!
Were it the star of Lucifer himself,
Or he himself girt with its beams, I could
Contain no longer. Softly: mighty well!
That corner's turn'd—so—ah! no;—right! it draws
Nearer. Here is a darksome angle—so,
That's weather'd.—Let me pause.—Suppose it leads
Into some greater danger than that which
I have escaped—no matter, 'tis a new one;
And novel perils, like fresh mistresses,
Wear more magnetic aspects:—I will go on,
And be it where it may—I have my dagger,
Which may protect me at a pinch.—Burn still,
Thou little light! Thou art my *ignis fatuus!*
My stationary Will-'o-the-wisp!—So! so!
He hears my invocation, and fails not.
[*The scene closes.*

SCENE IV.—*A Garden.*

Enter WERNER.

Wer. I could not sleep—and now the hour's at hand;
All's ready. Idenstein has kept his word;
And station'd in the outskirts of the town,
Upon the forest's edge, the vehicle
Awaits us. Now the dwindling stars begin
To pale in heaven; and for the last time I
Look on these horrible walls. Oh! never, never
Shall I forget them. Here I came most poor,
But not dishonor'd: and I leave them with
A stain,—if not upon my name, yet in
My heart!—a never-dying canker-worm,
Which all the coming splendor of the lands,
And rights, and sovereignty of Siegendorf
Can scarcely lull a moment. I must find
Some means of restitution, which would ease
My soul in part: but how without discovery?
It must be done, however; and I'll pause
Upon the method the first hour of safety.
The madness of my misery led to this
Base infamy; repentance must retrieve it:
I will have nought of Stralenheim's upon
My spirit, though he would grasp all of mine;
Lands, freedom, life,—and yet he sleeps! as soundly,
Perhaps, as infancy, with gorgeous curtains
Spread for his canopy, o'er silken pillows,
Such as when—Hark! what noise is that?
Again! [have fallen
The branches shake; and some loose stones
From yonder terrace.
[ULRIC *leaps from the terrace.*
Ulric! ever welcome!
Thrice welcome now! this filial—
Ulr. Stop! Before
We approach, tell me—

Wer. Why look you so?
Ulr. Do I
Behold my father, or—
Wer. What?
Ulr. An assassin?
Wer. Insane or insolent!
Ulr. Reply, sir, as
You prize your life, or mine!
Wer. To what must I
Answer?
Ulr. Are you or are you not the assassin
Of Stralenheim?
Wer. I never was as yet
The murderer of any man. What mean you?
Ulr. Did not you *this* night (as the night before)
Retrace the secret passage? Did you not
Again revisit Stralenheim's chamber? and—
[Ulric *pauses.*
Wer. Proceed.
Ulr. *Died* he not by your hand?
Wer. Great God!
Ulr. You are innocent, then! my father's innocent! [yes, yes,—
Embrace me! Yes,—your tone—your look—
Yet *say so.*
Wer. If I e'er, in heart or mind,
Conceived deliberately such a thought,
But rather strove to trample back to hell
Such thoughts—if e'er they glared a moment through
The irritation of my oppress'd spirit—
May heaven be shut forever from my hopes,
As from mine eyes.
Ulr. But Stralenheim is dead.
Wer. 'Tis horrible! 'tis hideous, as 'tis hate-
But what have I to do with this? [ful—
Ulr. No bolt
Is forced; no violence can be detected,
Save on his body. Part of his own household
Have been alarm'd; but as the intendant is
Absent, I took upon myself the care
Of mustering the police. His chamber has,
Past doubt, been enter'd secretly. Excuse me,
If nature—
Wer. Oh, my boy! what unknown woes
Of dark fatality, like clouds, are gathering
Above our house.
Ulr. My father! I acquit you!
But will the world do so? will even the judge,
If—But you must away this instant.
Wer. No!
I'll face it. Who shall dare suspect me?
Ulr. Yet
You had *no* guests—*no* visitors—no life
Breathing around you, save my mother's?
Wer. Ah!
The Hungarian!
Ulr. He is gone! he disappear'd
Ere sunset.
Wer. No; I hid him in that very
Conceal'd and fatal gallery.
Ulr. *There* I'll find him.
[Ulric *is going.*
Wer. It is too late: he had left the palace ere
I quitted it. I found the secret panel
Open, and the doors which lead from that hall
Which masks it: I but thought he had snatch'd
And favorable moment to escape [the silent
The myrmidons of Idenstein, who were
Dogging him yester-even.
Ulr. You reclosed
The panel?
Wer. Yes; and not without reproach
(And inner trembling for the avoided peril)
At his dull heedlessness, in leaving thus
His shelter'd asylum to the risk
Of a discovery.
Ulr. You are sure you closed it?
Wer. Certain.
Ulr. That's well; but had been better, if
You ne'er had turn'd it to a den for—
[*He pauses.*
Wer. Thieves!
Thou wouldst say; I must bear it, and deserve
But not— [it;
Ulr. No, father; do not think of this:
This is no hour to think of petty crimes,
But to prevent the consequence of great ones.
Why would you shelter this man?
Wer. Could I shun it?
A man pursued by my chief foe; disgraced
For my own crime: a victim to *my* safety,
Imploring a few hours' concealment from
The very wretch who was the cause he needed
Such refuge. Had he been a wolf, I could not
Have in such circumstances thrust him forth.
Ulr. And like the wolf he hath repaid you.
It is too late to ponder this: you must [But
Set out ere dawn. I will remain here to
Trace the murderer, if 'tis possible.
Wer. But this my sudden flight will give the Moloch
Suspicion: two new victims in the lieu
Of one, if I remain. The fled Hungarian,
Who seems the culprit, and—
Ulr. Who *seems?* *Who* else
Can be so?
Wer. Not *I*, though just now you doubted—
You, my *son!*—doubted—
Ulr. And do you doubt of him
The fugitive?
Wer. Boy! since I fell into
The abyss of crime (though not of *such* crime),
Having seen the innocent oppress'd for me, [I
May doubt even of the guilty's guilt. Your heart [cuse
Is free, and quick with virtuous wrath to ac-
Appearances; and views a criminal
In Innocence's shadow, it may be,
Because 'tis dusky.
Ulr. And if I do so, [knew
What will mankind, who know you not, or
But to oppress? You must not stand the haz-
Away! I'll make all easy. Idenstein [ard.
Will for his own sake and his jewel's hold
His peace—he also is a partner in
Your flight—moreover—
Wer. Fly! and leave my name
Link'd with the Hungarian's, or preferr'd as
To bear the brand of bloodshed? [poorest,
Ulr. Pshaw! leave anything

Except our fathers' sovereignty and castles,
For which you have so long panted, and in vain! [you bear
What *name?* You leave *no name*, since that
Is feign'd.
Wer. Most true: but still I would not have
Engraved in crimson in men's memories, [it
Though in this most obscure abode of men—
Besides, the search—
Ulr. I will provide against
Aught that can touch you. No one knows you
As heir of Siegendorf: If Idenstein [here
Suspects, 'tis *but suspicion*, and he is
A fool; his folly shall have such employment,
Too, that the unknown Werner shall give way
To nearer thoughts of self. The laws (if e'er
Laws reach'd this village) are all in abeyance
With the late general war of thirty years,
Or crush'd, or rising slowly from the dust,
To which the march of armies trampled them.
Stralenheim, although noble, is unheeded
Here, save as *such*—without lands, influence,
Save what hath perish'd with him. Few prolong
A week beyond their funeral rites their sway
O'er men, unless by relatives, whose interest
Is roused: such is not here the case; he died
Alone, unknown,—a solitary grave,
Obscure as his deserts, without a scutcheon,
Is all he'll have or wants. If *I* discover
The assassin, 'twill be well—if not, believe me,
None else; though all the full-fed train of menials
May howl above his ashes (as they did
Around him in his danger on the Oder),
Will no more stir a finger *now* than *then*.
Hence! hence! I must not hear your answer.—Look!
The stars are almost faded, and the grey
Begins to grizzle the black hair of night.
You shall not answer:—Pardon me that I
Am peremptory; 'tis your son that speaks,
Your long-lost, late-found son.—Let's call my mother!
Softly and swiftly step, and leave the rest
To me: I'll answer for the event as far
As regards *you*, and that is the chief point,
As my first duty, which shall be observed.
We'll meet in Castle Siegendorf—once more
Our banners shall be glorious! Think of that
Alone, and leave all other thoughts to me,
Whose youth may better battle with them.—Hence!
And may your age be happy!—I will kiss
My mother once more, then Heaven's speed be with you! [able?
Wer. This counsel's safe—but is it honor-
Ulr. To save a father is a child's chief honor. [*Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*A Gothic Hall in the Castle of Siegendorf, near Prague.*

Enter ERIC *and* HENRICK, *Retainers of the Court.* [these

Eric. So, better times are come at last; to
Old walls new masters and high wassail,—
A long desideratum. [both
Hen. Yes, for *masters*,
It might be unto those who long for novelty,
Though made by a new grave: but as for wassail,
Methinks the old Count Siegendorf maintain'd
His feudal hospitality as high
As e'er another prince of the empire.
Eric. Why,
For the mere cup and trencher, we no doubt
Fared passing well; but as for merriment
And sport, without which salt and sauces sea-
The cheer but scantily, our sizings were [son
Even of the narrowest.
Hen. The old count loved not
The roar of revel: are you sure that *this* does?
Eric. And yet he hath been courteous as
And we all love him. [he's bounteous,
Hen. His reign is as yet
Hardly a year o'erpast its honey-moon,
And the first year of sovereigns is bridal:
Anon, we shall perceive his real sway
And moods of mind.
Eric. Pray heaven he keep the present!
Then his brave son, Count Ulric—there's a
Pity the war's are o'er! [knight!
Hen. Why so?
Eric. Look on him!
And answer that yourself.
Hen. He's very youthful,
And strong and beautiful as a young tiger.
Eric. That's not a faithful vassal's likeness.
Hen. But
Perhaps a true one.
Eric. Pity, as I said,
The wars are over: in the hall, who like
Count Ulric for a well-supported pride,
Which awes, but yet offends not? in the field
Who like him with his spear in hand, when, gnashing
His tusks, and ripping up from right to left
The howling hounds, the boar makes for the thicket?
Who backs a horse, or bears a hawk, or wears
A sword like him? Whose plume nods knightlier?
Hen. No one's, I grant you. Do not fear,
Be long in coming, he is of that kind [if war
Will make it for himself, if he hath not
Already done as much.
Eric. What do you mean?
Hen. You can't deny his train of followers
(But few our native fellow-vassals born
On the domain) are such a sort of knaves
As— [*Pauses.*
Eric. What? [living.
Hen. The war (you love so much) leaves
Like other parents, she spoils her worst children.
Eric. Nonsense! they are all brave iron-
Such as old Tilly loved. [visaged fellows,
Hen. And who loved Tilly?
Ask that at Magdebourg—or for that matter
Wallenstein either;—they are gone to—
Eric. Rest;

But what beyond 'tis not ours to pronounce.
Hen. I wish they had left us something of their rest:
The country (nominally now at peace)
Is overrun with—God knows who; they fly
By night, and disappear with sunrise; but
Leave us no less desolation, nay, even more,
Than the most *open* warfare.
Eric. But Count Ulric—
What has all this to do with him?
Hen. With *him!*
He—might prevent it. As you say, he's fond
Of war, why makes he it not on those maraunders?
Eric. You'd better ask himself.
Hen. I would as soon
Ask the lion why he laps not milk.
Eric. And here he comes.
Hen. The devil! you'll hold your tongue?
Eric. Why do you turn so pale?
Hen. 'Tis nothing—but
Be silent.
Eric. I will, upon what you have said.
Hen. I assure you I mean nothing, a mere sport [otherwise,
Of words, no more; besides, had it been
He is to espouse the gentle Baroness
Ida of Stralenheim, the late baron's heiress;
And she, no doubt, will soften whatsoever
Of fierceness the late long intestine wars
Have given all natures, and most unto those
Who were born in them, and bred up upon
The knees of Homicide; sprinkled, as it were,
With blood even at their baptism. Prithee
On all that I have said. [peace,

Enter Ulric *and* Rodolph.

Good-morrow, Count.
Ulr. Good morrow, worthy Henrick. Eric,
All ready for the chase? [is
Eric. The dogs are order'd
Down to the forest, and the vassals out [ing.
To beat the bushes, and the day looks promis-
Shall I call forth your excellency's suite?
What courser will you please to mount?
Ulr. The dun,
Walstein.
Eric. I fear he scarcely has recover'd
The toils of Monday: 'twas a noble chase:
You spear'd *four* with your own hand.
Ulr. True, good Eric;
I had forgotten—let it be the grey, then,
Old Ziska: he has not been out this fortnight.
Eric. He shall be straight caparison'd. How
Of your immediate retainers shall [many
Escort you?
Ulr. I leave that to Weilburgh, our
Master of the horse. [*Exit* Eric.
Rodolph!
Rod. My lord!
Ulr. The news
Is awkward from the—
[Rodolph *points to* Henrick.
How now, Henrick? why
Loiter you here?
Hen. For your commands, my lord.
Ulr. Go to my father and present my duty;
And learn if he would aught with me before
I mount. [*Exit* Henrick.
Rodolph, our friends have had a check
Upon the frontiers of Franconia, and [then
'Tis rumor'd that the column sent against
Is to be strengthen'd. I must join them soon.
Rod. Best wait for further and more sure advices. [well.
Ulr. I mean it—and indeed it could not
Have fallen out at a time more opposite
To all my plans.
Rod. It will be difficult [father.
To excuse your absence to the count, your
Ulr. Yes, but the unsettled state of our domain
In high Silesia will permit and cover
My journey. In the mean time, when we are
Engaged in the chase, draw off the eighty men
Whom Wolffe leads—keep the forests on your
You know it well? [route:
Rod. As well as on that night
When we—
Ulr. We will not speak of that until
We can repeat the same with like success:
And when you have join'd, give Rosenberg this letter. [*Gives a letter.*
Add further, that I have sent this slight addition
To our force with you and Wolffe, as herald of
My coming, though I could but spare them ill
At this time, as my father loves to keep
Full numbers of retainers round the castle,
Until this marriage, and its feasts and fooleries, [sense.
Are rung out with its peal of nuptial non-
Rod. I thought you loved the lady Ida?
Ulr. Why,
I do so—but it follows not from that
I would bind in my youth and glorious years,
So brief and burning, with a lady's zone,
Although 'twere that of Venus:—but I love her,
As woman should be loved, fairly and solely.
Rod. And constantly?
Ulr. I think so; for I love
Nought else.—But I have not the time to pause
Upon these gewgaws of the heart. Great things [Rodolph!
We have to do ere long. Speed! speed! good
Rod. On my return, however, I shall find
The Baroness Ida lost in Countess Siegendorf?
Ulr. Perhaps my father wishes it; and
'Tis no bad policy; this union with [sooth,
The last bud of the rival branch at once
Unites the future and destroys the past.
Rod. Adieu.
Ulr. Yet hold—we had better keep together
Until the chase begins; then draw thou off,
And do as I have said.
Rod. I will. But to
Return—'twas a most kind act in the count
Your father to send up to Konigsberg
For this fair orphan of the baron, and
To hail her as his daughter.
Ulr. Wondrous kind!

Especially as little kindness till
They grew between them.
Rod. The late baron died
Of a fever, did he not?
Ulr. How should I know?
Rod. I have heard it whisper'd there was something strange
About his death and even the place of it
Is scarcely known.
Ulr. Some obscure village on
The Saxon or Silesian frontier.
Rod. He
Has left no testament—no farewell words?
Ulr. I am neither confessor nor notary,
So cannot say.
Rod. Ah! here's the lady Ida.

Enter IDA STRALENHEIM.

Ulr. You are early, my sweet cousin!
Ida. Not *too* early,
Dear Ulric, if I do not interrupt you.
Why do you call me "*cousin*"?
Ulr. [*smiling*]. Are we not so?
Ida. Yes, but I do not like the name; methinks
It sounds so cold, as if you thought upon
Our pedigree, and only weigh'd our blood.
Ulr. [*starting*]. Blood!
Ida. Why does yours start from your cheeks?
Ulr. Ay, doth it?
Ida. It doth—but no! it rushes like a torrent
Even to your brow again.
Ulr. [*recovering himself.*] And if it fled
It only was because your presence sent it
Back to my heart, which beats for you, sweet
Ida. "Cousin" again. [cousin!
Ulr. Nay, then I'll call you sister.
Ida. I like that name still worse.—Would
Been aught of kindred. [we had ne'er
Ulr. [*gloomily*]. Would we never had!
Ida. Oh heavens! and can *you wish that?*
Ulr. Dearest Ida!
Did I not echo your own wish?
Ida. Yes, Ulric,
But then I wish'd it not with such a glance,
And scarce knew what I said; but let me be
Sister or cousin, what you will, so that
I still to you am something.
Ulr. You shall be
All—all—
Ida. And you to *me are* so already;
But I can wait.
Ulr. Dear Ida!
Ida. Call me Ida,
Your Ida, for I would be yours, none else's—
Indeed, I have none else left since my poor father— [*She pauses.*
Ulr. You have *mine*—you have *me.*
Ida. Dear Ulric, how I wish
My father could but view our happiness,
Which wants but this!
Ulr. Indeed!
Ida. You would have loved him,
He you; for the brave ever love each other:
His manner was a little cold, his spirit
Proud (as is birth's prerogative); but under
This grave exterior—Would you had known each other!
Had such as you been near him on his journey,
He had not died without a friend to soothe
His last and lonely moments.
Ulr. Who says *that?*
Ida. What?
Ulr. That he *died alone.*
Ida. The general rumor,
And disappearance of his servants, who
Have ne'er return'd: that fever was most
Which swept them all away. [deadly
Ulr. If they were near him,
He could not die neglected or alone.
Ida. Alas! what is a menial to a death-bed,
When the dim eyes roll vainly round for what
It loves?—They say he died of a fever.
Ulr. *Say!*
It *was* so.
Ida. I sometimes dream otherwise.
Ulr. All dreams are false.
Ida. And yet I see him as
I see you.
Ulr. *Where?*
Ida. In sleep—I see him lie
Pale, bleeding, and a man with a raised knife
Beside him.
Ulr. But you do not see his *face!*
Ida. [*looking at him*]. No! Oh, my God! do *you?*
Ulr. Why do you ask?
Ida. Because you look as if you saw a murderer! [ness; your weakness
Ulr. [*agitatedly*]. Ida, this is mere childish-
Infects me to my shame: but as all feelings
Of yours are common to me, it affects me.
Prithee, sweet child, change—
Ida. Child, indeed! I have
Full fifteen summers! [*A bugle sounds.*
Rod. Hark, my lord, the bugle!
Ida. [*peevishly to* RODOLPH]. Why need you tell him that? Can he not hear it
Without your echo?
Rod. Pardon me, fair baroness!
Ida. I will not pardon you, unless you earn
By aiding me in my dissuasion of [it
Count Ulric from the chase to-day.
Rod. You will not,
Lady, need aid of mine.
Ulr. I must not now
Forego it.
Ida. But you shall!
Ulr. *Shall!*
Ida. Yes, or be
No true knight.—Come, dear Ulric! yield to me
In this, for this one day: the day looks heavy,
And you are turn'd so pale and ill.
Ulr. You jest.
Ida. Indeed I do not:—ask of Rodolph.
Rod. Truly,
My lord, within this quarter of an hour
You have changed more than e'er I saw you
In years. [change
Ulr. 'Tis nothing; but if 'twere, the air
Would soon restore me. I'm the true chameleon.

And live but on the atmosphere; your feasts
In castle halls, and social banquets, nurse not
My spirit—I'm a forester and breather
Of the steep mountain-tops, where I love all
The eagle loves.
Ida. Except his prey, I hope.
Ulr. Sweet Ida, wish me a fair chase, and I
Will bring you six boars' heads for trophies
home. [not go!
Ida. And will you not stay, then? You shall
Come! I will sing to you.
Ulr. Ida, you scarcely
Will make a soldier's wife.
Ida. I do not wish
To be so, for I trust these wars are over,
And you will live in peace on your domains.

Enter WERNER *as* COUNT SIEGENDORF.

Ulr. My father, I salute you, and it grieves
me
With such brief greeting.—You have heard
The vassals wait. [our bugle;
Sieg. So let them.—You forget
To-morrow is the appointed festival
In Prague for peace restored. You are apt
to follow
The chase with such ardor as will scarce
Permit you to return to-day, or if
Return'd, too much fatigued to join tomorrow
The nobles in our marshall'd ranks.
Ulr. You, count,
Will well supply the place of both—I am not
A lover of these pageantries.
Sieg. No, Ulric:
It were not well that you alone of all
Our young nobility—
Ida. And far the noblest in
Aspect and demeanor.
Sieg. [*to* IDA]. True, dear child,
Though somewhat frankly said for a fair
damsel.
But Ulric, recollect our position,
So lately reinstated in our honors.
Believe me, 'twould be mark'd in any house,
But most in *ours*, that ONE should be found
wanting
At such a time and place. Besides, the Heaven
Which gave us back our own, in the same
moment
It spread its peace o'er all, hath double claims
On us for thanksgiving: first, for our country;
And next that we are here to share its bless-
ings. [at once.
Ulr. [*aside*]. Devout, too! Well, sir, I obey
[*Then aloud to a* SERVANT]. Ludwig, dismiss
the train without. [*Exit* LUDWIG.
Ida. And so
You yield at once to him what I for hours
Might supplicate in vain.
Sieg. [*smiling*]. You are not jealous
Of me, I trust, my pretty rebel! who
Would sanction disobedience against all
Except thyself? But fear not; thou shalt rule
him
Hereafter with a fonder sway and firmer.
Ida. But I should like to govern *now*.
Sieg. You shall,
Your *harp*, which by the way awaits you with
The countess in her chamber. She complains
That you are a sad truant to your music:
She attends you.
Ida. Then good morrow, my kind kinsmen!
Ulric, you'll come and hear me?
Ulr. By and by.
Ida. Be sure I'll sound it better than your
bugles;
Then pray you be as punctual to its notes:
I'll play you King Gustavus' march.
Ulr. And why not
Old Tilly's?
Ida. Not that monster's! I should think
My harp-strings rang with groans, and not
with music, [quickly;
Could aught of *his* sound on it;—but come
Your mother will be eager to receive you.
[*Exit.*
Sieg. Ulric, I wish to spaak with you alone.
Ulr. My time's your vassal.—
[*Aside to* RODOLPH.] Rodolph, hence! and do
As I directed: and by his best speed
And readiest means let Rosenberg reply.
Rod. Count Siegendorf, command you
aught? I am bound
Upon a journey past the frontier.
Sieg. [*starts.*] Ah!
Where, on *what* frontier?
Rod. The Silesian, on
My way—[*Aside to* ULRIC]—*Where* shall I
say?
Ulr. [*aside to* RODOLPH]. To Hamburgh.
[*Aside to himself.*] That
Word will, I think, put a firm padlock on
His further inquisition.
Rod. Count, to Hamburgh.
Sieg. [*agitated.*] Hamburgh! No, I have
nought to do there, nor
Am aught connected with that city. Then
God speed you!
Rod. Fare ye well, Count Siegendorf!
[*Exit* RODOLPH.
Sieg. Ulric, this man who has just departed is
One of those strange companions whom I
Would reason with you on. [fain
Ulr. My lord, he is
Noble by birth, of one of the first houses
In Saxony.
Sieg. I talk not of his birth,
But of his bearing. Men speak lightly of him.
Ulr. So they will do of most men. Even
the monarch [or
Is not fenced from his chamberlain's slander,
The sneer of the last courtier whom he has
Great and ungrateful. [made
Sieg. If I must be plain,
The world speaks more than lightly of this
Rodolph: [who still
They say he is leagued with the "black bands"
Ravage the frontier.
Ulr. And will you believe
The world?
Sieg. In this case—yes.
Ulr. In *any* case,

I thought you knew it better than to take
An accusation for a sentence.
Sieg. Son!
I understand you; you refer to—but
My Destiny has so involved about me
Her spider web, that I can only flutter
Like the poor fly, but break it not. Take heed,
Ulric; you have seen to what the passions led
Twenty long years of misery and famine [me:
Quench'd them not—twenty thousand more, perchance,
Hereafter (or even here in *moments* which
Might date for years, did Anguish make the
May not obliterate or expiate [dial)
The madness and dishonor of an instant.
Ulric, be warn'd by a father!—I was not
By mine, and you behold me!
Ulr. I behold
The prosperous and beloved Siegendorf,
Lord of a prince's appanage, and honor'd
By those he rules and those he ranks with.
Sieg. Ah!
Why wilt thou call me prosperous, while I fear
For thee? Beloved, when thou lovest me not!
All hearts but one may beat in kindness for
But if my son's is cold!— [me—
Ulr. Who *dare* say that?
Sieg. None else but I, who see it—*feel* it—keener [so,
Than would your adversary, who dared say
Your sabre in his heart! But mine survives
The wound.
Ulr. You err. My nature is not given
To outward fondling: how should it be so,
After twelve years' divorcement from my parents? [torn years
Sieg. And did not *I* too pass those twelve
In a like absence? But 'tis vain to urge you—
Nature was never call'd back by remonstrance.
Let's change the theme. I wish you to consider
That these young violent nobles of high name,
But dark deeds (ay, the darkest, if all Rumor
Reports be true), with whom thou consortest,
Will lead thee—
Ulr. [*impatiently*]. I'll be *led* by no man.
Sieg. Nor
Be leader of such, I would hope: at once
To wean thee from the perils of thy youth
And haughty spirit, I have thought it well
That thou shouldst wed the lady Ida—more
As thou appear'st to love her.
Ulr. I have said
I will obey your orders, were they to
Unite with Hecate—can a son say more?
Sieg. He says too much in saying this. It is not
The nature of thine age, nor of thy blood,
Nor of thy temperament, to talk so coolly,
Or act so carelessly, in that which is
The bloom or blight of all men's happiness,
(For glory's pillow is but restless, if
Love lay not down his cheek there): some strong bias,
Some master fiend is in thy service, to
Misrule the mortal who believes him slave,
And makes his every thought subservient; else
Thou'dst say at once—"I love young Ida, and
Will wed her"; or, "I love her not, and all
The powers of earth shall never make me."—
Would I have answer'd. [So
Ulr. Sir, *you wed* for love.
Sieg. I did, and it has been my only refuge
In many miseries.
Ulr. Which miseries
Had never been but for this love-match.
Sieg. Still
Against your age and nature! Who at twenty
E'er answer'd thus till now?
Ulr. Did you not warn me
Against your own example?
Sieg. Boyish sophist!
In a word, do you love, or love not, Ida?
Ulr. What matters it, if I am ready to
Obey you in espousing her?
Sieg. As far
As you feel, nothing, but all life for her.
She's young—all-beautiful—adores you—is
Endow'd with qualities to give happiness,
Such as rounds common life into a dream
Or something which your poets cannot paint,
And (if it were not wisdom to love virtue)
For which Philosophy might barter wisdom;
And giving so much happiness, deserves
A little in return. I would not have her
Break her heart for a man who has none to break;
Or wither on her stalk like some pale rose
Deserted by the bird she thought a nightin-
According to the Orient tale. She is— [gale,
Ulr. The daughter of dead Stralenheim, your foe: [truth,
I'll wed her, ne'ertheless; though, to say
Just now I am not violently transported
In favor of such unions.
Sieg. But she loves you.
Ulr. And I love her, and therefore would think *twice*.
Sieg. Alas! Love never *did* so.
Ulr. Then 'tis time
He should begin, and take the bandage from
His eyes, and look before he leaps; till now
He hath ta'en a jump i' the dark.
Sieg. But you consent?
Ulr. I did and do.
Sieg. Then fix the day.
Ulr. 'Tis usual,
And certes courteous, to leave that to the
Sieg. *I* will engage for *her*. [lady.
Ulr. So will not *I*
For any woman; and as what I fix
I fain would see unshaken, when she gives
Her answer, I'll give mine.
Sieg. But 'tis your office
To woo.
Ulr. Count, 'tis a marriage of your making,
So be it of your wooing; but to please you
I will now pay my duty to my mother,
With whom, you know, the lady Ida is.—
What would you have? You have forbid my stirring
For manly sports beyond the castle walls,
And I obey; you bid me turn a chamberer,

To pick up gloves, and fans, and knitting-needles, [smiles,
And list to songs and tunes, and watch for
And smile at pretty prattle, and look into
The eyes of feminine, as though they were
The stars receding early to our wish
Upon the dawn of a world-winning battle—
What can a son or man do more?
[*Exit* Ulric.

Sieg. [*solus*]. Too much!—
Too much of duty, and too little love!
He pays me in the coin he owes me not:
For such hath been my wayward fate, I could
Fulfil a parent's duties by his side [not
Till now; but love he owes me, for my thoughts [tears
Ne'er left him, nor my eyes long'd without
To see my child again, and now I have found him! [teous
But how!—obedient, but with coldness; du-
In my sight, but with carelessness; mysteri-ous— [absence,
Abstracted—distant—much given to long
And where—none know—in league with the most riotous [justice,
Of our young nobles; though, to do him
He never stoops down to their vulgar pleas-ures; [cannot
Yet there's some tie between them which I
Unravel. They look up to him—consult him—
Throng round him as a leader: but with me
He hath no confidence! Ah! can I hope it
After—what! doth my father's curse descend
Even to my child! Or is the Hungarian near
To shed more blood? or—Oh! if it should be!
Spirit of Stralenheim, dost thou walk these walls [not,
To wither him and his—who, though they slew
Unlatched the door of death for thee? 'Twas not
Our fault, nor is our sin: thou wert our foe,
And yet I spared thee when my own destruc-tion [ing!
Slept with thee, to awake with thine awaken-
And only took—Accursed gold! thou liest
Like poison in my hands; I dare not use thee,
Nor part from thee; thou camest in such a guise,
Methinks thou wouldst contaminate all hands
Like mine. Yet I have done, to atone for thee,
Thou villainous gold! and thy dead master's doom,
Though he died not by me or mine, as much
As if he were my brother! I have ta'en
His orphan Ida—cherish'd her as one
Who will be mine.

Enter an Attendant.

Atten. The abbot, if it please
Your excellency, whom you sent for, waits
Upon you. [*Exit* Attendant.

Enter the Prior Albert.

Prior. Peace be with these walls, and all
Within them.

Sieg. Welcome, welcome, holy father!
And may thy prayer be heard!—all men have
Of such, and I— [need

Prior. Have the first claim to all
The prayers of our community. Our convent,
Erected by your ancestors, is still
Protected by their children.

Sieg. Yes, good father;
Continue daily orisons for us
In these dim days of heresies and blood,
Though the schismatic Swede, Gustavus, is
Gone home.

Prior. To the endless home of unbelievers,
Where there is everlasting wail and woe,
Gnashing of teeth, and tears of blood, and fire
Eternal, and the worm which dieth not!

Sieg. True, father: and to avert those pangs from one,
Who, though of our most faultless holy church,
Yet died without its last and dearest offices,
Which smooth the soul through purgatorial
I have to offer humbly this donation [pains,
In masses for his spirit.

[Siegendorf *offers the gold which he had taken from* Stralenheim.

Prior. Count, if I
Receive it, 'tis because I know too well
Refusal would offend you. Be assured
The largess shall be only dealt in alms,
And every mass no less sung for the dead.
Our house needs no donations, thanks to yours,
Which has of old endow'd it; but from you
And yours in all meet things 'tis fit we obey.
For whom shall mass be said?

Sieg. [*faltering*]. For—for—the dead.

Prior. His name?

Sieg. 'Tis from a soul, and not a name,
I would avert perdition.

Prior. I meant not
To pry into your secret. We will pray [est.
For one unknown, the same as for the proud-

Sieg. Secret! I have none: but, father, he who's gone [queath—
Might *have* one; or, in short, he did be-
No, not bequeath—but I bestow this sum
For pious purposes.

Prior. A proper deed
In behalf of our departed friends.

Sieg. But he who's gone was not my friend,
The deadliest and the stanchest. [but foe,

Prior. Better still!
To employ our means to obtain heaven for the
Of our dead enemies is worthy those [souls
Who can forgive them living.

Sieg. But I did not
Forgive this man. I loathed him to the last,
As he did me. I do not love him now,
But—

Prior. Best of all! for this is pure religion!
You fain would rescue him you hate from
An evangelical compassion—with [hell—
Your own gold too.

Sieg. Father, 'tis not my gold.

Prior. Whose then? You said it was no legacy. [that he

Sieg. No matter whose—of this be sure,

Who own'd it never more will need it, save
In that which it may purchase from your
'Tis yours, or theirs. [altars;
Prior. Is there blood upon it?
Sieg. No; but there's worse than blood—eternal shame!
Prior. Did he who own'd it die in his *bed?*
Sieg. Alas!
He did.
Prior. Son! you relapse into revenge,
If you regret your enemy's bloodless death.
Sieg. His death was fathomlessly deep in blood. [tle.
Prior. You said he died in his bed, not bat-
Sieg. He
Died, I scarce know—but—he was stabb'd i' the dark.
And now you have it—perish'd on his pillow
By a cut-throat!—Ay! you may look upon me!
I am *not* the man. I'll meet your eye on that
As I can one day God's. [point,
Prior. Nor did he die
By means, or men, or instrument of yours?
Sieg. No! by the God who sees and strikes!
Prior. Nor know you
Who slew him?
Sieg. I could only guess at *one*,
And to me he is a stranger, unconnected,
As unemploy'd. Except by one day's knowledge,
I never saw the man who was suspected.
Prior. Then you are free from guilt?
Sieg. [*eagerly*]. Oh! *am* I?—say!
Prior. You have said so, and know best.
Sieg. Father! I have spoken
The truth, and nought but truth, if *not* the
Yet say I am *not* guilty! for the blood [*whole;*
Of this man weighs on me, as if I shed it,
Though, by the Power who abhorreth human blood,
I did not!—nay, once spared it, when I might
And *could*—ay, perhaps, *should* (if our self-
Be e'er excusable in such defences [safety
Against the attacks of over potent foes):
But pray for him, for me, and all my house;
For, as I said, though I be innocent,
I know not why, a like remorse is on me,
As if he had fallen by me or mine. Pray for
Father! I have pray'd myself in vain. [me,
Prior. I will.
Be comforted! You are innocent, and should
Be calm as innocence.
Sieg. But calmness is not
Always the attribute of innocence.
I feel it is not.
Prior. But it will be so,
When the mind gathers up its truth within it.
Remember the great festival to-morrow,
In which you rank among our chiefest nobles,
As well as your brave son; and smooth your
Nor in the general orison of thanks [aspect,
For bloodshed stopt, let blood you shed not rise
A cloud upon your thoughts. This were to be
Too sensitive. Take comfort, and forget
Such things, and leave remorse unto the guilty. [*Exeunt.*

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*A large and magnificent Gothic Hall in the Castle of Siegendorf, decorated with Trophies, Banners, and Arms of that family.*

Enter ARNHEIM *and* MEISTER, *Attendants of* COUNT SIEGENDORF.

Arn. Be quick! the count will soon return: the ladies
Already are at the portal. Have you sent
The messengers in search of him he seeks for?
Meis. I have, in all directions, over prague,
As far as the man's dress and figure could
By your description track him. The devil take
These revels and processions! All the pleasure
(If such there be) must fall to the spectators.
I'm sure none doth to us who make the show.
Arn. Go to! my lady countess comes.
Meis. I'd rather
Ride a day's hunting on an outworn jade,
Than follow in the train of a great man,
In these dull pageantries.
Arn. Begone! and rail
Within. [*Exeunt.*

Enter the COUNTESS JOSEPHINE SIEGENDORF *and* IDA STRALENHEIM.

Jos. Well, Heaven be praised! the show is over. [dreamt
Ida. How can you say so? Never have I
Of aught so beautiful. The flowers, the boughs,
The banners, and the nobles, and the knights,
The gems, the robes, the plumes, the happy faces,
The coursers, and the incense, and the sun
Streaming through the stain'd windows, even the *tombs*,
Which look'd so calm, and the celestial hymns,
Which seem'd as if they rather came from heaven [peal
Than mounted there. The bursting organ's
Rolling on high like an harmonious thunder:
At peace! and all at peace with one another!
Oh, my sweet mother!
[*Embracing* JOSEPHINE.
Jos. My beloved child!
For such, I trust, thou shalt be shortly.
Ida. Oh!
I am so already. Feel how my heart beats!
Jos. It does, my love; and never may it
With aught more bitter. [throb
Ida. Never shall it do so!
How should it? What should make us grieve? I hate
To hear of sorrow: how can we be sad,
Who love each other so entirely? You,
The count, and Ulric, and your daughter Ida.
Jos. Poor child!
Ida. Do you pity me?
Jos. No: I but envy,
And that in sorrow, not in the world's sense
Of the universal vice, if one vice be
More general than another.
Ida. I'll not hear
A word against a world which still contains

You and my Ulric. Did you ever see
Aught like him? How he tower'd amongst them all! [faster—
How all eyes follow'd him! The flowers fell
Rain'd from each lattice at his feet, methought,
Than before all the rest; and where he trod
I dare be sworn that they grow still, nor e'er
Will wither.
Jos. You will spoil him, little flatterer,
If he should hear you.
Ida. But he never will.
I dare not say so much to him—I fear him.
Jos. Why so? he loves you well.
Ida. But I can never
Shape my thoughts *of* him into words *to* him:
Besides, he sometimes frightens me.
Jos. How so?
Ida. A cloud comes o'er his blue eyes suddenly, [Yet he says nothing.
Jos. It is nothing: all men,
Especially in these dark troublous times,
Have much to think of.
Ida. But I cannot think
Of aught save him.
Jos. Yet there are other men,
In the world's eye, as goodly. There's, for instance,
The young Count Waldorf, who scarce once withdrew
His eyes from yours to-day.
Ida. I did not see him,
But Ulric. Did you not see at the moment
When all knelt, and I wept? and yet methought, [and warm,
Through my fast tears, though they were thick
I saw him smiling on me.
Jos. I could not
See aught save heaven, to which my eyes were [raised,
Together with the people's.
Ida. I thought too
Of heaven, although I look'd on Ulric.
Jos. Come,
Let us retire; they will be here anon
Expectant of the banquet. We will lay
Aside these nodding plumes and dragging trains. [jewels,
Ida. And, above all, these stiff and heavy
Which make my head and heart ache, as both throb
Beneath their glitter o'er my brow and zone.
Dear mother, I am with you.

Enter Count Siegendorf, *in full dress, from the solemnity, and* Ludwig.

Sieg. Is he not found?
Lud. Strict search is making everywhere, and if [found.
The man be in Prague, be sure he will be
Sieg. Where's Ulric?
Lud. He rode round the other way
With some young nobles; but he left them soon;
And, if I err not, not a minute since
I heard his excellency, with his train,
Gallop o'er the west drawbridge,

Enter Ulric *splendidly dressed.*

Sieg. [*to* Ludwig]. See, they cease not
Their quest of him I have described.
[*Exit* Ludwig.
Oh, Ulric!
How have I longed for thee!
Ulr. Your wish is granted—
Behold me!
Sieg. I have seen the murderer.
Ulr. Whom? Where?
Sieg. The Hungarian, who slew Stralenheim.
Ulr. You dream.
Sieg. I live! and as I live, I saw him—
Heard him! he dared to utter even my name.
Ulr. What name?
Sieg. Werner! *'twas* mine.
Ulr. It must be so
No more: forget it.
Sieg. Never! never! all
My destinies were woven in that name;
It will not be engraved upon my tomb,
But it may lead me there.
Ulr. To the point—the Hungarian?
Sieg. Listen!—The church was throng'd; the hymn was raised;
"*Te Deum*" peal'd from nations rather than
From choirs, in one great cry of "God be praised" [years,
For one day's peace after thrice ten dread
Each bloodier than the former: I arose
With all the nobles, and as I look'd down
Along the lines of lifted faces,—from
Our banner'd and escutcheon'd gallery, I
Saw, like a flash of lightning (for I saw
A moment and no more), what struck me sightless
To all else—the Hungarian's face! I grew
Sick: and when I recover'd from the mist
Which curl'd about my senses, and again
Look'd down, I saw him not. The thanksgiving
Was over, and we march'd back in procession.
Ulr. Continue.
Sieg. When we reach'd the Muldau's bridge,
The joyous crowd above, the numberless
Barks mann'd with revellers in their best garbs,
Which shot along the glancing tide below,
The decorated street, the long array,
The clashing music, and the thundering
Of far artillery, which seem'd to bid
A long and loud farewell to its great doings,
The standards o'er me, and the tramplings round, [could not
The roar of rushing thousands,—all—all
Chase this man from my mind, although my
No longer held him palpable. [senses
Ulr. You saw him
No more, then?
Sieg. I look'd, as a dying soldier
Looks at a draught of water, for this man;
But still I saw him not; but in his stead—
Ulr. What in his stead?
Sieg. My eye forever fell
Upon your dancing crest: the loftiest,

As on the loftiest and the loveliest head,
It rose the highest of the stream of plumes,
Which overflow'd the glittering streets of Prague.
Ulr. What's this to the Hungarian?
Sieg. Much; for I
Had almost then forgot him in my son;
When just as the artillery ceased, and paused
The music, and the crowd embraced in lieu
Of shouting, I heard in a deep, low voice,
Distinct and keener far upon my ear
Than the late cannon's volume, this word—
Ulr. Utter'd by— ["*Werner!*"
Sieg. HIM! I turn'd—and saw—and fell.
Ulr. And wherefore? were you seen?
Sieg. The officious care
Of those around me dragg'd me from the spot,
Seeing my faintness, ignorant of the cause;
You, too, were too remote in the procession
(The old nobles being divided from their children)
To aid me.
Ulr. But I'll aid you now.
Sieg. In what?
Ulr. In searching for this man, or—When he's found,
What shall we do with him? I know not that.
Sieg. Then wherefore seek?
Ulr. Because I cannot rest
Till he is found. His fate, and Stralenheim's,
And ours, seem intertwisted! nor can be
Unravell'd, till—

Enter an ATTENDANT.

Atten. A stranger to wait on
Your excellency.
Sieg. Who?
Atten. He gave no name.
Sieg. Admit him, ne'ertheless.
[*The* ATTENDANT *introduces* GABOR, *and afterwards exit.*
Ah!
Gab. 'Tis then Werner!
Sieg. [*haughtily*]. The same you knew, sir, by that name; and *you!*
Gab. [*looking round*]. I recognize you both: yours, father and son,
It seems. Count, I have heard that you, or
Have lately been in search of me: I am here.
Sieg. I have sought you, and have found you: you are charged [such
(Your own heart may inform you why) with
A crime as— [*He pauses.*
Gab. Give it utterance, and then
I'll meet the consequences.
Sieg. You shall do so—
Unless—
Gab. First, who accuses me?
Sieg. All things,
If not all men: the universal rumor—
My own presence on the spot—the place—the time—
And every speck of circumstance unite
To fix the blot on you.
Gab. And on *me only?*
Pause ere you answer: is no other name,
Save mine, stain'd in this business?
Sieg. Trifling villain!
Who play'st with thine own guilt! Of all that breathe
Thou best dost know the innocence of him
'Gainst whom thy breath would blow thy bloody slander.
But I will talk no further with a wretch,
Further than justice asks. Answer at once,
And without quibbling, to my charge.
Gab. 'Tis false!
Sieg. Who says so?
Gab. I.
Sieg. And how disprove it?
Gab. By
The presence of the murderer.
Sieg. Name him.
Gab. He
May have more names than one. Your lord-ship had so
Once on a time.
Sieg. If you mean me, I dare
Your utmost.
Gab. You may do so, and in safety;
I know the assassin.
Sieg. Where is he?
Gab. [*pointing to* ULRIC]. Beside you!
[ULRIC *rushes forward to attack* GABOR; SIEGENDORF *interposes.* [slain;
Sieg. Liar and fiend! but you shall not be
These walls are mine, and you are safe within them. [*He turns to* ULRIC.
Ulric, repel this calumny, as I
Will do. I avow it as a growth so monstrous,
I could not deem it earth-born: but be calm;
It will refute itself. But touch him not.
[ULRIC *endeavors to compose himself.*
Gab. Look at *him*, count, and then *hear me.*
Sieg. [*first to* GABOR, *and then looking at* ULRIC]. I hear thee
My God! you look—
Ulr. How?
Sieg. As on that dread night
When we met in the garden.
Ulr. [*composes himself*]. It is nothing.
Gab. Count, you are bound to hear me. I came hither [down
Not seeking you, but sought. When I knelt
Amidst the people in the church, I dream'd not
To find the beggar'd Werner in the seat [me,
Of senators and princes; but you have call'd
And we have met.
Sieg. Go on, sir,
Gab. Ere I do so,
Allow me to inquire, who profited [ever;
By Stralenheim's death? Was't I—as poor as
And poorer by suspicion on my name!
The baron lost in that last outrage neither
Jewels nor gold; his life alone was sought,—
A life which stood between the claims of others
To honors and estates scarce less than princely. [no less
Sieg. These hints, as vague as vain, attach
To me than to my son.
Gab. I can't help that.
But let the consequence alight on him
Who feels himself the guilty one among us.
I speak to you, Count Siegendorf, because

I know you innocent, and deem you just.
But ere I can proceed—*dare* you protect me?
Dare you command me?
[SIEGENDORF *first looks at the Hungarian, and then at* ULRIC, *who has unbuckled his sabre, and is drawing lines with it on the floor—still in its sheath.*
Ulr. [*looks at his father and says*]. Let the man go on! [down
Gab. I am unarm'd, count—bid your son lay His sabre. [it.
Ulr. [*offers it to him contemptuously*]. Take
Gab. No, sir, 'tis enough
That we are both unarm'd—I would not choose
To wear a steel which may be stain'd with more
Blood than came there in battle.
Ulr. [*casts the sabre from him in contempt*]. It—or some
Such other weapon, in my hand—spared yours
Once, when disarm'd and at my mercy.
Gab. True—
I have not forgotten it: you spared me for
Your own especial purpose—to sustain
An ignominy not my own.
Ulr. Proceed.
The tale is doubtless worthy the relater,
But is it of my father to hear further?
[*To* SIEGENDORF.
Sieg. [*takes his son by the hand.*] My son, I know my own innocence, and doubt not
Of yours—but I have promised this man pa-
Let him continue. [tience;
Gab. I will not detain you
By speaking of myself much: I began [me.
Life early—and am what the world has made
At Frankfort, on the Oder, where I pass'd
A winter in obscurity, it was
My chance at several places of resort
(Which I frequented sometimes, but not often)
To hear related a strange circumstance
In February last. A martial force,
Sent by the state, and after strong resistance,
Secured a band of desperate men, supposed
Marauders from the hostile camp.—They
However, not to be so—but banditti, [proved,
Whom either accident or enterprise [ests
Had carried from their usual haunt—the for-
Which skirt Bohemia—even into Lusatia.
Many amongst them were reported of
High rank—and martial law slept for a time.
At last they were escorted o'er the frontiers,
And placed beneath the civil jurisdiction
Of the free town of Frankfort. Of *their* fate
I know no more.
Sieg. And what is this to Ulric?
Gab. Amongst them there was said to be one man [tune,
Of wonderful endowments:—birth and for-
Youth, strength, and beauty, almost super-human,
And courage as unrivall'd, were proclaim'd
His by the public rumor; and his sway,
Not only over his associates, but
His judges, was attributed to witchcraft.
Such was his influence:—I have no great faith
In any magic save that of the mine—
I therefore deem'd him wealthy.—But my soul
Was roused with various feelings to seek out
This prodigy, if only to behold him.
Sieg. And did you so?
Gab. You'll hear. Chance favor'd me:
A popular affray in the public square
Drew crowds together—it was one of those
Occasions where men's souls look out of them,
And show them as they are—even in their faces:
The moment my eye met his, I exclaim'd,
"This is the man!" though he was then, as since,
With the nobles of the city. I felt sure
I had not err'd, and watch'd him long and nearly;
I noted down his form—his gesture—features,
Stature, and bearing—and amidst them all,
'Midst every natural and acquired distinction,
I could discern, methought the assassin's eye
And gladiator's heart.
Ulr. [*smiling.* The tale sounds well.
Gab. And may sound better.—He appear'd to me
One of those beings to whom Fortune bends,
As she doth to the daring—and on whom
The fates of others oft depend; besides
An indescribable sensation drew me
Near to this man, as if my point of fortune
Was to be fix'd by him.—There I was wrong.
Sieg. And may not be right now.
Gab. I follow'd him,
Solicited his notice—and obtain'd it—
Though not his friendship:—it was his inten-
To leave the city privately—we left it [tion
Together—and together we arrived
In the poor town where Werner was conceal'd,
And Stralenheim was succor'd—Now we are
The verge—*dare* you hear further? [on
Sieg. I must do so—
Or I have heard too much.
Gab. I saw in you
A man above his station—and if not
So high, as now I find you, in my then
Conceptions, 'twas that I had rarely seen
Men such as you appear'd in height of mind,
In the most high of worldly rank; you were
Poor, even to all save rags; I would have-shared [fused it.
My purse, though slender, with you—you re-
Sieg. Doth my refusal make a debt to you,
That you thus urge it?
Gab. Still you owe me something,
Though not for that; and I owed you my safety,
At least my seeming safety, when the slaves
Of Stralenheim pursued me on the grounds
That *I* had robb'd him.
Sieg. *I* conceal'd you—I,
Whom and whose house you arraign—reviv-ing viper!
Gab. I accuse no man—save in my defence.
You, count, have made yourself accuser—judge;
Your hall's my court, your heart is my tribunal,
Be just, and *I'll* be merciful!

Sieg. You merciful!
You! Base calumniator!
Gab. I. 'Twill rest
With me at last to be so. You conceal'd me—
In secret passages known to yourself,
You said, and to none else. At dead of night,
Weary with watching in the dark, and dubious
Of tracing back my way, I saw a glimmer,
Through distant crannies, of a twinkling light:
I follow'd it, and reach'd a door—a secret
Portal—which open'd to the chamber, where,
With cautious hand and slow, having first undone
As much as made a crevice of the fastening,
I look'd through, and beheld a purple bed,
And on it Stralenheim!—
Sieg. Asleep! and yet
You slew him!—Wretch!
Gab. He was already slain,
And bleeding like a sacrifice. My own
Blood became ice.
Sieg. But he was all alone?
You saw none else? You did not see the—
[*He pauses from agitation.*
Gab. No,
He, whom you dare not name, nor even I
Scarce dare to recollect, was not then in
The chamber. [guiltless still—
Sieg. [*to* ULRIC]. Then, my boy! thou art
Thou bad'st me say *I* was so once—Oh! now
Do thou as much!
Gab. Be patient. I can *not*
Recede now, though it shake the very walls
Which frown above us. You remember, or
If not, your son does,—that the locks were changed
Beneath *his* chief inspection on the morn
Which led to this same night; how he had enter'd
He best knows—but within an antechamber,
The door of which was half ajar, I saw
A man who wash'd his bloody hands, and oft
With stern and anxious glance gazed back upon
The bleeding body—but it moved no more.
Sieg. Oh! God of fathers!
Gab. I beheld his features
As I see yours—but yours they were not, though [Ulric's!
Resembling them—behold them in Count
Distinct as I beheld them, though the expression
Is not now what it then was!—but it was so
When I first charged him with the crime—so
Sieg. This is so— [lately.
Gab. [*interrupting him*]. Nay—but hear me to the end!
Now you must do so.—I conceived myself
Betray'd by you and *him* (for now I saw
There was some tie between you) into this
Pretended den of refuge, to become
The victim of your guilt; and my first thought
Was Vengeance: but, though armed with a short poniard [match
(Having left my sword without), I was no
For him at any time, as had been proved
That morning—either in address or force.
I turn'd and fled—i' the dark: chance rather than
Skill made me gain the secret door of the hall,
And thence the chamber where you slept; if I
Had found you *waking*, Heaven alone can tell
What vengeance and suspicion might have prompted; [night.
But ne'er slept guilt as Werner slept that
Sieg. And yet I had horrid dreams! and such brief sleep,
The stars had not gone down when I awoke.
Why didst thou spare me? I dreamt of my
And now my dream is out. [father—
Gab. 'Tis not my fault,
If I have read it.—Well! I fled and hid me—
Chance led me here after so many moons—
And show'd me Werner in Count Siegendorf!
Werner, whom I had sought in huts in vain,
Inhabited the palace of a sovereign!
You sought me and have found me—now you
My secret, and may weigh its worth. [know
Sieg. after a pause]. Indeed!
Gab. Is it revenge or justice which inspires
Your meditation?
Sieg. Neither—I was weighing
The value of your secret.
Gab. You shall know it
At once:—When you were poor, and I, though
Rich enough to relieve such poverty [poor,
As might have envied mine, I offer'd you
My purse—you would not share it:—I'll be franker
With you: you are wealthy, noble, trusted by
The imperial powers—you understand me?
Sieg. Yes.—
Gab. Not quite. You think me venal, and scarce true:
'Tis no less true, however, that my fortunes
Have made me both at present. You shall aid
I would have aided you—and also have [me;
Been somewhat damaged in my name to save
Yours and your son's. Weigh well what I have said.
Sieg. Dare you await the event of a few
Deliberation? [minutes'
Gab. [*casts his eyes on* ULRIC, *who is leaning against a pillar*]. If I should do so? [into
Sieg. I pledge my life for yours. Withdraw
This tower. [*Opens a turret door.*
Gab. [*hesitatingly*]. This is the second *safe*
You have offer'd me. [asylum
Sieg. And was not the first so?
Gab. I know not that even now—but will approve
The second. I have still a further shield.—
I did not enter Prague alone; and should I
Be put to rest with Stralenheim, there are
Some tongues without will wag in my behalf.
Be brief in your decision!
Sieg. I will be so.—
My word is sacred and irrevocable
Within *these* walls, but it extends no further.
Gab. I'll take it for so much.
Sieg. [*points to* ULRIC'S *sabre, still upon the ground*]. Take also *that*—

I saw you eye it eagerly, and him
Distrustfully.
Gab. [*takes up the sabre*]. I will; and so
To sell my life—not cheaply. [provide
[GABOR *goes into the turret, which* SIEGENDORF *closes.* [Ulric!
Sieg. [*advances to* ULRIC]. Now, Count
For son I dare not call thee—What say'st
Ulr. His tale is true. [thou?
Sieg. True, monster!
Ulr. Most true, father!
And you did well to listen to it: what
We know, we can provide against. He must
Be silenced.
Sieg. Ay, with half of my domains;
And with the other half, could he and thou
Unsay this villainy.
Ulr. It is no time
For trifling or dissembling. I have said
His story's true; and he too must be silenced.
Sieg. How so?
Ulr. As Stralenheim is. Are you so dull
As never to have hit on this before?
When we met in the garden, what except
Discovery in the act could make me know
His death? Or had the prince's household been
Then summon'd, would the cry for the police
Been left to such a stranger? Or should I
Have loiter'd on the way? Or could *you*, *Werner*,
The object of the baron's hate and fears,
Have fled—unless by many an hour before
Suspicion woke? I sought and fathom'd you,
Doubting if you were false or feeble: I
Perceived you were the latter: and yet so
Confiding have I found you, that I doubted
At times your weakness.
Sieg. Parricide! no less
Than common stabber! What deed of my life,
Or thought of mine, could make you deem me
For your accomplice? [fit
Ulr. Father, do not raise
The devil you cannot lay between us. This
Is time for union and for action, not
For family disputes. While *you* were tortur'd,
Could *I* be calm? Think you that I have heard
This fellow's tale without some feeling?—You
Have taught me feeling for *you* and myself?
For whom or what else did you ever teach it?
Sieg. Oh! my dead father's curse! 'tis working now. [down!
Ulr. Let it work on! the grave will keep it
Ashes are feeble foes: it is more easy
To baffle such, than countermine a mole,
Which winds its blind but living path beneath you.
Yet hear me still!—If *you* condemn me, yet
Remember *who* hath taught me once too often
To listen to him! *Who* proclaim'd to me
That *there were crimes* made venial by the occasion?
That passion was our nature? that the goods
Of Heaven waited on the goods of fortune?
Who show'd me this humanity secured
By his *nerves* only? *Who* deprived me of
All power to vindicate myself and race
In open day? By his disgrace which stamp'd
(It might be) bastardy on me, and on
Himself—a *felon's* brand! The man who is
At once both warm and weak invites to deeds
He longs to do, but dare not. Is it strange
That I should *act* what you could *think?* We have done [ponder
With right and wrong: and now must only
Upon effects, not causes. Stralenheim,
Whose life I saved from impulse, as, *unknown*,
I would have saved a peasant's or a dog's, I slew [He
Known as our foe—but not from vengeance.
Was a rock in our way, which I cut through,
As doth the bolt, because it stood between us
And our true destination—but not idly.
As stranger I preserved him, and he *owed me*
His *life:* when due, I but resumed the debt.
He, you, and I stood o'er a gulf wherein
I have plunged our enemy. *You* kindled first
The torch—you show'd the path: now trace
Of safety—or let me! [me that
Sieg. I have done with life!
Ulr. Let us have done with that which cankers life—
Familiar feuds and vain recriminations
Of things which cannot be undone. We have
No more to learn or hide: I know no fear,
And have within these very walls men who
(Although you know them not) dare ventures all things. [here
You stand high with the state; what passes
Will not excite her too great curiosity:
Keep your own secret, keep a steady eye,
Stir not, and speak not:—leave the rest to me:
We must have no *third* babblers thrust between us. [*Exit* ULRIC.
Sieg. [*solus*]. Am I awake? are these my father's halls! [ever
And *you*—my son! *My* son! *mine!* who have
Abhorr'd both mystery and blood, and yet
Am plunged into the deepest hell of both!
I must be speedy, or more will be shed—
The Hungarian's! Ulric—he hath partisans,
It seems: I might have guess'd as much. Oh, fool!
Wolves prowl in company. He hath the key
(As I too) of the opposite door which leads
Into the turret. Now then! or once more
To be the father of fresh crimes—no less
Than of the criminal! Ho! Gabor! Gabor!
[*Exit into the turret, closing the door after him.*

SCENE II.—*The Interior of the Turret.*

GABOR *and* SIEGENDORF.

Gab. Who calls?
Sieg. I—Siegendorf! Take these and fly!
Lose not a moment!
[*Tears off a diamond star and other jewels, and thrusts them into* GABOR'S *hand.*
Gab. What am I to do
With these?
Sieg. Whate'er you will: sell them, or hoard,

And prosper; but delay not, or you are lost!
Gab. You pledged your honor for my safety!
Sieg. And
Must thus redeem it. Fly! I am not master,
It seems, of my own castle—of my own
Retainers—nay, even of these very walls,
Or I would bid them fall and crush me! Fly!
Or you will be slain by—
Gab. Is it even so?
Farewell, then! Recollect, however, Count,
You sought this fatal interview!
Sieg. I did:
Let it not be more fatal still!—Begone!
Gab. By the same path I enter'd?
Sieg. Yes; that's safe still;
But loiter not in Prague;—you do not know
With whom you have to deal.
Gab. I know too well—
And knew it ere yourself, unhappy sire!
Farewell! [*Exit* GABOR.
Sieg. [*solus and listening*]. He hath clear'd the staircase. Ah! I hear
The door sound loud behind him! He is safe!
Safe!—oh, my father's spirit!—I am faint—
[*He leans down upon a stone seat, near the wall of the tower, in a drooping posture.*

Enter ULRIC, *with others armed, and with weapons drawn.*

Ulr. Despatch!—he's there.
Lud. The count, my lord!
Ulr. [*recognizing* SIEGENDORF]. *You* here, sir! [strike!
Sieg. Yes; if you want another victim,
Ulr. [*seeing him stript of his jewels*]. Where is the ruffian who hath plunder'd you?
Vassals, despatch in search of him! You see
'Twas as I said—the wretch hath stript my father [loom!
Of jewels which might form a prince's heir-
Away! I'll follow you forthwith.
[*Exeunt all but* SIEGENDORF *and* ULRIC.
What's this?
Where is the villain?
Sieg. There are *two*, sir: which
Are you in quest of?
Ulr. Let us hear no more
Of this: he must be found. You have not let
Escape? [him
Sieg. He's gone.
Ulr. With your connivance?
Sieg. With
My fullest, freest aid.
Ulr. Then fare you well!
[ULRIC *is going.*
Sieg. Stop! I command—entreat—implore!
Will you then leave me? [Oh, Ulric!
Ulr. What! remain to be
Denounced—dragg'd, it may be, in chains; and all
By your inherent weakness, half-humanity,
Selfish remorse, and temporizing pity,
That sacrifices your whole race to save
A wretch to profit by our ruin! No, count,
Henceforth you have no son!
Sieg. I never had one;
And would you ne'er had borne the useless name! [forth
Where will you go? I would not send you
Without protection.
Ulr. Leave that unto me.
I am not alone; nor merely the vain heir
Of your domains; a thousand, ay, ten thous-
Swords, hearts, and hands are mine. [and
Sieg. The foresters
With whom the Hungarian found you first at Frankfort! [name! Go tell
Ulr. Yes—men—who are worthy of the
Your senators that they look well to Prague;
Their feast of peace was early for the times;
There are more spirits abroad than have been
With Wallenstein! [lain

Enter JOSEPHINE *and* IDA.

Jos. What is't we hear? My Siegendorf!
Thank Heaven, I see you safe!
Sieg. Safe!
Ida. Yes, dear father!
Sieg. No, no; I have no children: never
Call me by that worst name of parent. [more
Jos. What
Means my good lord?
Sieg. That you have given birth
To a demon! [say this of Ulric?
Ida. [*taking* ULRIC'S *hand*]. Who shall dare
Sieg. Ida, beware! there's blood upon that hand. [it were mine.
Ida. [*stooping to kiss it*]. I'd kiss it off, though
Sieg. It is so!
Ulr. Away! it is your father's! [*Exit* ULRIC.
Ida. Oh, Great God!
And I have loved this man!
IDA *falls senseless*—JOSEPHINE *stands speechless with horror.*
Sieg. The wretch has slain
Them both!—My Josephine! we are now alone!
Would we had ever been so!—All is over
For me!—Now open wide, my sire, thy grave;
Thy curse hath dug it deeper for thy son
In mine!—The race of Siegendorf is past

THE DEFORMED TRANSFORMED:

A DRAMA.

1824.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This production is founded partly on the story of a novel called "The Three Brothers," published many years ago, from which M. G. Lewis's "Wood Demon" was also taken; and partly on the "Faust" of the great Goethe. The present publication contains the two first parts only, and the opening chorus of the third. The rest may, perhaps, appear hereafter.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Stranger, *afterwards* Cæsar.	Cellini.
Arnold.	
Bourbon.	Bertha.
Philibert.	Olimpia.

Spirits, Soldiers, Citizens of Rome, Priests, Peasants, etc.

PART I.

Scene I.—*A Forest.*

Enter Arnold *and his mother* Bertha.

Bert. Out, hunchback!
Arn. I was born so, mother!
Bert. Out,
Thou incubus! Thou nightmare! Of seven
The sole abortion! [sons.
Arn. Would that I had been so,
And never seen the light!
Bert. I would so too!
But as thou *hast*—hence, hence—and do thy best!
That back of thine may bear its burthen; tis
More high, if not so broad as that of others.
Arn. It *bears* its burthen;—but, my heart! Will it
Sustain that which you lay upon it, mother?
I love, or, at the least, I loved you: nothing
Save you, in nature, can love aught like me.
You nursed me—do not kill me!
Bert. Yes—I nursed thee,
Because thou wert my first-born, and I knew
If there would be another unlike thee [not
That monstrous sport of nature. But get
And gather wood! [hence,
Arn. I will: but when I bring it,
Speak to me kindly. Though my brothers are
So beautiful and lusty, and as free
As the free chase they follow, do not spurn me;
Our milk has been the same.
Bert. As is the hedgehog's,
Which sucks at midnight from the wholesome dam
Of the young bull, until the milkmaid finds
The nipple next day sore and udder dry.
Call not thy brothers brethren! call me not
Mother; for if I brought thee forth, it was
As foolish hens at times hatch vipers, by
Sitting upon strange eggs. Out, urchin, out!
[*Exit* Bertha.

Arn. [*solus*]. Oh, mother!—She is gone, and I must do
Her bidding;—wearily but willingly
I would fulfil it, could I only hope
A kind word in return. What shall I do?
[Arnold *begins to cut wood: in doing this he wounds one of his hands.*
My labor for the day is over now.
Accursed be this blood that flows so fast;
For double curses will be my meed now [kin,
At home—What home? I have no home, no
No kind—not made like other creatures, or
To share their sports or pleasures. Must I bleed, too, [earth
Like them? Oh, that each drop which falls to
Would rise a snake to sting them, as they have stung me!
Or that the devil, to whom they liken me,
Would aid his likeness! If I must partake
His form, why not his power? Is it because
I have not his will too? For one kind word
From her who bore me would still reconcile me
Even to this hateful aspect. Let me wash
The wound.
[Arnold *goes to a spring, and stoops to wash his hands: he starts back.*
They are right; and Nature's mirror shows me
What she hath made me. I will not look on it
Again, and scarce dare think on't. Hideous wretch
That I am! The very waters mock me with
My horrid shadow—like a demon placed
Deep in the fountain to scare back the cattle
From drinking therein. [*He pauses.*
And shall I live on;
A burden to the earth, myself, and shame
Unto what brought me into life! Thou blood,
Which flow'st so freely from a scratch, let me
Try if thou wilt not in a fuller stream
Pour forth my woes forever with thyself
On earth, to which I will restore at once
This hateful compound of her atoms, and

Resolve back to her elements, and take
The shape of any reptile save myself,
And make a world for myriads of new worms!
This knife! now let me prove if it will sever
This wither'd slip of nature's nightshade—my
Vile form—from the creation, as it hath
The green bough from the forest.
[ARNOLD *places the knife in the ground, with the point upwards.*
Now 'tis set,
And I can fall upon it. Yet one glance
On the fair day, which sees no foul thing like
Myself, and the sweet sun which warm'd me, but
In vain. The birds—how joyously they sing!
So let them, for I would not be lamented:
But let their merriest notes be Arnold's knell:
The fallen leaves my monument; the murmur
Of the near fountain my sole elegy.
Now, knife, stand firmly, as I fain would fall!
[*As he rushes to throw himself upon the knife, his eye is suddenly caught by the fountain, which seems in motion.*
The fountain moves without a wind; but shall
The ripple of a spring change my resolve?
No. Yet it moves again! The waters stir,
Not as with air, but by some subterrane
And rocking power of the internal world.
What's here? A mist! No more?—
[*A cloud comes from the fountain. He stands gazing upon it: it is dispelled, and a tall black man comes towards him.*
Arn. What would you? Speak!
Spirit or man!
Stran. As man is both, why not
Say both in one?
Arn. Your form is man's, and yet
You may be devil.
Stran. So many men are that [me
Which is so call'd or thought, that you may add
To which you please, without much wrong to either.
But come: you wish to kill yourself;—pursue
Your purpose.
Arn. You have interrupted me.
Stran. What is that resolution which can
Be interrupted? If I be the devil [e'er
You deem, a single moment would have made
Mine, and forever, by your suicide; [you
And yet my coming saves you.
Arn. I said not
You *were* the demon, but that your approach
Was like one.
Stran. Unless you keep company
With him (and you seem scarce used to such high
Society), you can't tell how he approaches;
And for his aspect, look upon the fountain,
And then on me, and judge which of us twain
Looks likest what the boors believe to be
Their cloven-footed terror.
Arn. Do you—dare *you*
To taunt me with my born deformity?
Stran. Were I to taunt a buffalo with this
Cloven foot of thine, or the swift dromedary
With thy sublime of humps, the animals
Would revel in the compliment. And yet
Both beings are more swift, more strong, more mighty
In action and endurance than thyself,
And all the fierce and fair of the same kind
With thee. Thy form is natural; 'twas only
Nature's mistaken largess to bestow
The gifts which are of others upon man.
Arn. Give me the strength then of the buffalo's foot,
When he spurns high the dust, beholding his
Near enemy; or let me have the long
And patient swiftness of the desert-ship,
The helmless dromedary!—and I'll bear
The fiendish sarcasm with a saintly patience.
Stran. I will.
Arn. [*with surprise*]. Thou *canst?*
Stran. Perhaps. Would you aught else?
Arn. Thou mockest me.
Stran. Not I. Why should I mock
What all are mocking? That's poor sport, methinks,
To talk to thee in human language (for
Thou canst not yet speak mine), the forester
Hunts not the wretched coney, but the boar,
Or wolf, or lion, leaving paltry game
To petty burghers, who leave once a year
Their walls to fill their household cauldrons with
Such scullion prey. The meanest gibe at
Now *I* can mock the mightiest. [thee,—
Arn. Then waste not
Thy time on me: I seek thee not.
Stran. Your thoughts
Are not so far from me. Do not send me back:
I'm not so easily recall'd to do
Good service.
Arn. What wilt thou do for me?
Stran. Change
Shapes with you, if you will, since yours so irks you;
Or form you to your wish in any shape. [for
Arn. Oh! then you are indeed the demon,
Nought else would wittingly wear mine.
Stran. I'll show thee
The brightest which the world e'er bore, and
Thy choice. [give thee
Arn. On what condition?
Stran. There's a question!
An hour ago you would have given your soul
To look like other men, and now you pause
To wear the form of heroes.
Arn. No; I will not,
I must not compromise my soul.
Stran. What soul,
Worth naming so, would dwell in such a carcass? [tenement
Arn. 'Tis an aspiring one, whate'er the
In which it is mislodged. But name your
Must it be sign'd in blood? [compact:
Stran. Not in your own.
Arn. Whose blood then?
Stran. We will talk of that hereafter.
But I'll be moderate with you, for I see
Great things within you. You shall have no bond

But your own will, no contract save your deeds.
Are you content?
Arn. I take thee at thy word.
Stran. Now, then!
[*The* STRANGER *approaches the fountain, and turns to* ARNOLD.
A little of your blood.
Arn. For what!
Stran. To mingle with the magic of the
And make the charm effective. [waters,
Arn. [*holding out his wounded arm*]. Take it all. [for this.
Stran. Not now. A few drops will suffice
[*The* STRANGER *takes some of* ARNOLD'S *blood in his hand, and casts it into the fountain.*

Shadows of beauty!
Shadows of power!
Rise to your duty—
This is the hour!
Walk lovely and pliant
From the depth of this fountain,
As the cloud-shapen giant
Bestrides the Hartz Mountain.*
Come as ye were,
That our eyes may behold
The model in air
Of the form I will mould,
Bright as the Iris
When either is spann'd;—
Such *his* desire is, [*Pointing to* ARNOLD.
Such my command! [
Demons heroic—
Demons who wore
The form of the stoic
Or sophist of yore—
Or the shape of each victor,
From Macedon's boy
To each high Roman picture,
Who breathed to destroy—
Shadows of beauty!
Shadows of power!
Up to your duty—
This is the hour!

[*Various phantoms arise from the waters, and pass in succession before the* STRANGER *and* ARNOLD.
Arn. What do I see?
Stran. The black-eyed Roman, with
The eagle's beak between those eyes which
Beheld a conqueror, or look'd along [ne'er
The land he made not Rome's, while Rome became
His, and all those who heir'd his very name.
Arn. The phantom's bald; my quest is beauty. Could I
Inherit but his fame with his defects.
Stran. His brow was girt with laurels more than hairs.
You see his aspect—choose it, or reject.
I can but promise you his form: his fame
Must be long sought and fought for.
Arn. I will fight too,
But not as a mock Cæsar. Let him pass;
His aspect may be fair, but suits me not.
Stran. Then you are far more difficult to please
Than Cato's sister, or than Brutus's mother,
Or Cleopatra at sixteen—an age
When love is not less in the eye than heart.
But be it so! Shadow, pass on!
[*The phantom of* JULIUS CÆSAR *disappears.*
Arn. And can it
Be, that the man who shook the earth is gone,
And left no footstep?
Stran. There you err. His substance
Left graves enough, and woes enough, and fame
More than enough to track his memory;
But for his shadow, 'tis no more than yours,
Except a little longer and less crook'd
I' the sun. Behold another!
[*A second phantom passes.*
Arn. Who is he?
Stran. He was the fairest and the bravest of
Athenians. Look upon him well.
Arn. He is
More lovely than the last. How beautiful!
Stran. Such was the curled son of Cinias;—
Invest thee with his form? [Wouldst thou
Arn. Would that I had
Been born with it! But since I may choose further
I will *look* further.
[*The shade of* ALCIBIADES *disappears.*
Stran. Lo! behold again!
Arn. What! that low, swarthy, short-nosed, round-eyed satyr,
With the wide nostrils and Silenus' aspect,
The splay feet and low stature! I had better
Remain that which I am.
Stran. And yet he was
The earth's perfection of all mental beauty,
And personification of all virtue.
But you reject him?
Arn. If his form could bring me
That which redeem'd it—no.
Stran. I have no power
To promise that: but you may try, and find it
Easier in such a form, or in your own.
Arn. No. I was not born for philosophy,
Though I have that about me which has need
Let him fleet on. [on't.
Stran. Be air, thou hemlock-drinker!
[*The shadow of* SOCRATES *disappears: another rises.*
Arn. What's here? whose broad brow and whose curly beard
And manly aspect look like Hercules,
Save that his jocund eye hath more of Bacchus
Than the sad purger of the infernal world,
Leaning dejected on his club of conquest,
As if he knew the worthlessness of those
For whom he had fought.
Stran. It was the man who lost
The ancient world for love.
Arn. I cannot blame him,
Since I have risk'd my soul because I find not
That which he exchanged the earth for.

*This is a well-known German superstition—a gigantic shadow produced by reflection on the Brocken.

Stran. Since so far
You seem congenial, will you wear his features?
Arn. No. As you leave me choice, I am difficult,
If but to see the heroes I should ne'er
Have seen else on this side of the dim shore
Whence they float back before us.
Stran. Hence, triumvir,
Thy Cleopatra's waiting.
[*The shade of* ANTONY *disappears: another rises.*
Arn. Who is this?
Who truly looketh like a demigod, [stature,
Blooming and bright, with golden hair, and
If not more high than mortal, yet immortal
In all that nameless bearing of his limbs,
Which he wears as the sun his rays—a something [flashing
Which shines from him, and yet is but the
Emanation of a thing more glorious still.
Was *he e'er human only?*
Stran. Let the earth speak,
If there be atoms of him left, or even
Of the more solid gold that form'd his urn.
Arn. Who was this glory of mankind?
Stran. The shame
Of Greece in peace, her thunderbolt in war—
Demetrius the Macedonian, and
Taker of cities.
Arn. Yet one shadow more.
Stran. [*addressing the shadow*]. Get thee to Lamia's lap!
[*The shade of* DEMETRIUS POLIORCETES *vanishes: another rises.*
I'll fit you still,
Fear not, my hunchback; if the shadows of
That which existed please not your nice taste,
I'll animate the ideal marble, till
Your soul be reconciled to her new garment.
Arn. Content! I will fix here.
Stran. I must commend
Your choice. The god-like son of the sea-goddess,
The unshorn boy of Peleus, with his locks
As beautiful and clear as the amber waves
Of rich Pactolus, roll'd o'er sands of gold,
Soften'd by intervening crystal, and
Rippled like flowing waters by the wind,
All vow'd to Sperchius as they were—behold
And *him*—as he stood by Polixena, [them!
With sanction'd and with soften'd love, before
The altar, gazing on his Trojan bride
With some remorse within for Hector slain
And Priam weeping, mingled with deep passion [hand
For the sweet downcast virgin, whose young
Trembled in *his* who slew her brother. So
He stood i' the temple! Look upon him as
Greece look'd her last upon her best, the in-
Ere Paris' arrow flew. [stant
Arn. I gaze upon him
As if I were his soul, whose form shall soon
Envelope mine.
Stran. You have done well. The greatest
Deformity should only barter with
The extremest beauty, if the proverb's true
Of mortals, that extremes meet.
Arn. Come! Be quick! I am impatient.
Stran. As a youthful beauty
Before her glass. *You both* see what is not,
But dream it is what must be.
Arn. Must I wait?
Stran. No; that were a pity. But a word or two:
His stature is twelve cubits; would you so far
Outstep these times, and be a Titan? Or
(To talk canonically) wax a son
Of Anak?
Arn. Why not?
Stran. Glorious ambition!
I love thee most in dwarfs! A mortal of
Philistine stature would have gladly pared
His own Goliath down to a slight David:
But thou, my manikin, wouldst soar a show
Rather than hero. Thou shalt be indulged,
If such be thy desire: and yet, by being
A little less removed from present men
In figure, thou canst sway them more; for all
Would rise against thee now, as if to hunt
A new-found mammoth; and their cursed engines,
Their culverins, and so forth, would find way
Through our friend's armor there, with greater ease
Than the adulterer's arrow through his heel
Which Thetis had forgotten to baptize
In Styx.
Arn. Then let it be as thou deem'st best.
Stran. Thou shalt be beauteous as the thing thou seest,
And strong as what it was, and—
Arn. I ask not
For valor, since deformity is daring.
It is its essence to o'ertake mankind
By heart and soul, and make itself the equal—
Ay, the superior of the rest. There is
A spur in its halt movements, to become
All that the others cannot, in such things
As still are free to both, to compensate
For stepdame Nature's avarice at first. [tune,
They woo with fearless deeds the smiles of for-
And oft, like Timour the lame Tartar, win them. [wilt remain
Stran. Well spoken! and thou doubtless
Form'd as thou art. I may dismiss the mould
Of shadow, which must turn to flesh, to incase
This daring soul, which could achieve no less
Without it.
Arn. Had no power presented me
The possibility of change, I would
Have done the best which spirit may to make
Its way with all deformity's dull, deadly,
Discouraging weight upon me, like a mountain,
In feeling, on my heart as on my shoulders—
A hateful and unsightly molehill to [look'd
The eyes of happier men. I would have
On beauty in that sex which is the type
Of all we know or dream of beautiful
Beyond the world they brighten, with a sigh—
Not of love, but despair; nor sought to win,

Though to a heart all love, what could not love me
In turn, because of this vile, crooked clog,
Which makes me lonely. Nay, I could have borne [her.
It all, had not my mother spurn'd me from
The she-bear licks her cubs into a sort
Of shape:—my dam beheld my shape was hopeless.
Had she exposed me, like the Spartan, ere
I knew the passionate part of life, I had
Been a clod of the valley,—happier nothing
Than what I am. But even thus the lowest,
Ugliest, and meanest of mankind, what courage [chance
And perseverance could have done, per-
Had made me something—as it has made heroes [me
Of the same mould as mine. You lately saw
Master of my own life, and quick to quit it;
And he who is so is master of
Whatever dreads to die.

Stran. Decide between
What you have been, or will be.

Arn. I have done so.
You have open'd brighter prospects to my eyes,
And sweeter to my heart. As I am now,
I might be fear'd, admired, respected, loved
Of all save those next to me, of whom I
Would be loved. As thou showest me
A choice of forms, I take the one I view.
Haste! haste!

Stran. And what shall *I* wear?

Arn. Surely, he
Who can command all forms will choose the highest,
Something superior even to that which was
Pelides now before us. Perhaps *his* [er—
Who slew him, that of Paris: or—still high-
The poet's god, clothed in such limbs as are
Themselves a poetry.

Stran. Less will content me
For I, too, love a change.

Arn. Your aspect is
Dusky, but not uncomely.

Stran. If I chose,
I might be whiter; but I have a penchant
For black—it is so honest, and besides
Can neither blush with shame nor pale with fear;
But I have worn it long enough of late,
And now I'll take your figure.

Arn. Mine!

Stran. Yes. You
Shall change with Thetis' son, and I with Bertha, [tastes:
Your mother's offspring. People have their
You have yours—I mine.

Arn. Despatch! Despatch!

Stran. Even so.

[*The* STRANGER *takes some earth and moulds it along the turf, and then addresses the phantom of* ACHILLES.

Beautiful shadow
Of Thetis' boy!
Who sleeps in the meadow
Whose grass grows o'er Troy!
From the red earth, like Adam,*
Thy likeness I shape,
As the being who made him
Whose actions I ape.
Thou clay, be all glowing,
Till the rose in his cheek
Be as fair as, when blowing,
It wears its first streak!
Ye violets, I scatter,
Now turn into eyes!
And thou, sunshiny water,
Of blood take the guise!
Let these hyacinth boughs
Be his long flowing hair,
And wave o'er his brows
As thou wavest in air!
Let his heart be this marble
I tear from the rock!
But his voice as the warble
Of birds on yon oak!
Let his flesh be the purest
Of mould, in which grew
The lily-root surest,
And drank the best dew!
Let his limbs be the lightest
Which clay can compound,
And his aspect the brightest
On earth to be found!
Elements, near me,
Be mingled and stirr'd,
Know me, and hear me,
And leap to my word!
Sunbeams, awaken
This earth's animation!
'Tis done! He hath taken
His stand in creation!

[ARNOLD *falls senseless; his soul passes into the shape of* ACHILLES, *which rises from the ground; while the phantom has disappeared, part by part, as the figure was formed from the earth.*

Arn. [*in his new form*]. I love, and I shall be beloved! Oh, life!
At last I feel thee! Glorious spirit!

Stran. Stop!
What shall become of your abandon'd garment,
Yon hump, and lump, and clod of ugliness,
Which late you wore, or were?

Arn. Who cares? Let wolves
And vultures take it, if they will.

Stran. And if
They do, and are not scared by it, you'll say
It must be peace-time, and no better fare
Abroad i' the fields.

Arn. Let us but leave it there;
No matter what becomes on't.

Stran. That's ungracious,
If not ungrateful. Whatsoe'er it be,
It hath sustain'd your soul full many a day.

Arn. Ay, as the dunghill may conceal a gem

* Adam means "red earth," from which the first man was formed.

Which is now set in gold, as jewels should be.
Stran. But if I give another form, it must be
By fair exchange, not robbery. For they
Who make men without woman's aid have long
Had patents for the same, and do not love
Your interlopers. The devil may take men,
Not make them,—though he reap the benefit
Of the original workmanship:—and therefore
Some one must be found to assume the shape
You have quitted.
Arn. Who would do so?
Stran. That I know not,
And therefore I must.
Arn. You!
Stran. I said it ere
You inhabited your present dome of beauty.
Arn. True. I forget all things in the new
Of this immortal change. [joy
Stran. In a few moments
I will be as you were, and you shall see
Yourself forever by you, as your shadow.
Arn. I would be spared this.
Stran. But it cannot be.
What! shrink already, being what you are,
From seeing what you were?
Arn. Do as thou wilt.
Stran. [*to the late form of* ARNOLD *extended on the earth*].
Clay! not dead, but soulless!
Though no man would choose thee,
An immortal no less
Deigns not to refuse thee.
Clay thou art; and unto spirit
All clay is of equal merit.
Fire! *without* which nought can live;
Fire! but *in* which nought can live,
Save the fabled salamander,
Or immortal souls which wander,
Praying what doth not forgive,
Howling for a drop of water,
Burning in a quenchless lot:
Fire! the only element
Where nor fish, beast, bird, nor worm
Save the worm which dieth not,
Can preserve a moment's form,
But must with thyself be blent:
Fire! man's safeguard and his slaughter:
Fire! Creation's first-born daughter,
And Destruction's threaten'd son,
When heaven with the world hath done:
Fire! assist me to renew
Life in what lies in my view
Stiff and cold!
His resurrection rests with me and you!
One little, marshy spark of flame—
And he again shall seem the same;
But I his spirit's place shall hold!
[*An ignis fatuus floats through the wood, and rests on the brow of the body. The* STRANGER *disappears; the body rises.*
Arn. [*in his new form*]. Oh! horrible!
Stran. [*in* ARNOLD'S *late shape*]. What! tremblest thou?
Arn. Not so—
I merely shudder. Where is fled the shape
Thou lately worest?
Stran. To the world of shadows.
But let us thread the present. Whither wilt
Arn. Must thou be my companion? [thou?
Stran. Wherefore not?
Your betters keep worse company.
Arn. *My* betters!
Stran. Oh! You wax proud, I see, of your new form:
I'm glad of that. Ungrateful too! That's well;
You improve apace;—two changes in an instant,
And you are old in the world's ways already.
But bear with me: indeed you'll find me useful
Upon your pilgrimage. But come, pronounce
Where shall we now be errant?
Arn. Where the world
Is thickest, that I may behold it in
Its workings.
Stran. That's to say, where there is war
And woman in activity. Let's see!
Spain—Italy—the new Atlantic world—
Afric, with all its Moors. In very truth [now
There is small choice: the whole race are just
Tugging as usual at each other's hearts.
Arn. I have heard great things of Rome.
Stran. A goodly choice—
And scarce a better to be found on earth,
Since Sodom was put out. The field is wide too; [scion
For now the Frank, and Hun, and Spanish
Of the old Vandals, are at play along
The sunny shores of the world's garden.
Arn. How
Shall we proceed?
Stran. Like gallants, on good coursers.
What, ho! my chargers! Never yet were bet-
Since Phaeton was upset into the Po. [ter,
Our pages too!

Enter two PAGES, *with four coal-black horses.*

Arn. A noble sight!
Stran. And of
A nobler breed. Match me in Barbary,
Or your Kochlini race of Araby,
With these!
Arn. The mighty steam, which volumes high
From their proud nostrils, burns the very air:
And sparks of flame, like dancing fire-flies, wheel
Around their manes, as common insects swarm
Round common steeds towards sunset.
Stran. Mount, my lord:
They and I are your servitors.
Arn. And these
Our dark-eyed pages—what may be their
Stran. You shall baptize them. [names?
Arn. What! in holy water?
Stran. Why not? The deeper sinner, better saint. [be demons.
Arn. They are beautiful, and cannot, sure,
Stran. True; the devil's always ugly; and
Is never diabolical. [your beauty
Arn. I'll call him [bright
Who bears the golden horn, and wears such
And blooming aspect, *Huon;* for he looks

Like to the lovely boy lost in the forest,
And never found till now. And for the other
And darker, and more thoughtful, who smiles not,
But looks as serious though serene as night,
He shall be *Memnon*, from the Ethiop king
Whose statue turns a harper once day.
And you?

Stran. I have ten thousand names, and
As many attributes: but as I wear [twice
A human shape, will take a human name.

Arn. More human than the shape (though I trust. [it was mine once)

Stran. Then call me Cæsar.

Arn. Why, that name
Belongs to empires, and has been but borne
By the world's lords.

Stran. And therefore fittest for
The devil in disguise—since so you deem me,
Unless you call me pope instead.

Arn. Well, then
Cæsar thou shalt be. For myself, my name
Shall be plain Arnold still.

Cæs. We'll add a title—
"Count Arnold": it hath no ungracious sound,
And will look well upon a billet-doux.

Arn. Or in an order for a battle-field.

Cæs. [*sings*]. To horse! to horse! my coal-black steed
Paws the ground and snuffs the air!
There's not a foal of Arab's breed
More knows whom he must bear;
On the hill he will not tire,
Swifter as it waxes higher;
In the marsh he will not slacken,
On the plain be o'ertaken;
In the wave he wilt not sink,
Nor pause at the brook's side to drink;
In the race he will not pant,
In the combat he'll not faint;
On the stones he will not stumble
Time nor toil shall make him humble;
In the stall he will not stiffen,
But be winged as a griffin,
Only flying with his feet;
And will not such a voyage be sweet?
Merrily! merrily! never unsound,
Shall our bonny black horses skim over the ground! [fly!
From the Alps to the Caucasus, ride we or
For we'll leave them behind in the glance of an eye.

[*They mount their horses and disappear.*

SCENE II.—*A Camp before the walls of Rome.*
ARNOLD *and* CÆSAR.

Cæs. You are well enter'd now.

Arn. Ay, but my path
Has been o'er carcases; mine eyes are full
Of blood.

Cæs. Then wipe them, and see clearly. Why!
Thou art a conqueror; the chosen knight
And free companion of the gallant Bourbon,
Late constable of France: and now to be
Lord of the city which hath been earth's lord
Under its emperors, and changing sex,
Not sceptre, an hermaphrodite of empire—
Lady of the old world.

Arn. How *old?* What! are there
New worlds?

Cæs. To *you*. You'll find there are such shortly,
By its rich harvests, new disease, and gold;
From one-*half* of the world named a *whole* new one,
Because you know no better than the dull
And dubious notice of your eyes and ears.

Arn. I'll trust them.

Cæs. Do! They will deceive you sweetly,
And that is better than the bitter truth.

Arn. Dog!

Cæs. Man!

Arn. Devil!

Cæs. Your obedient humble servant.

Arn. Say *master* rather. Thou hast lured me on, [here.
Through scenes of blood and lust, till I am

Cæs. And where wouldst *thou* be?

Arn. Oh, at peace—in peace.

Cæs. And where is that which is so? From the star
To the winding worm, all life is motion; and
In life *commotion* is the extremest point
Of life. The planet wheels till it becomes
A comet, and destroying as it sweeps
The stars, goes out. The poor worm winds its way,
Living upon the death of other things,
But still, like them, must live and die, the subject
Of something which has made it live and die.
You must obey what all obey, the rule
Of fix'd necessity; against her edict
Rebellion prospers not.

Arn. And when it prospers—

Cæs. 'Tis no rebellion.

Arn. Will it prosper now?

Cæs. The Bourbon hath given orders for the assault,
And by the dawn there will be work.

Arn. Alas!
And shall the city yield? I see the giant
Abode of the true God, and his true saint,
Saint Peter, rear its dome and cross into
That sky whence Christ ascended from the cross,
Which his blood made a badge of glory and
Of joy (as once of torture unto him, [uge).
God and God's Son, man's sole and only ref-

Cæs. 'Tis there, and shall be.

Arn. What?

Cæs. The crucifix
Above, and many altar shrines below.
Also some culverins upon the walls,
And harquebusses, and what not: besides
The men who are to kindle them to death
Of other men.

Arn. And those scarce mortal arches,
Pile above pile of everlasting wall,
The theatre where emperors and their subjects
(Those subjects *Romans*) stood at gaze upon
The battles of the monarchs of the wild

And wood, the lion and his tusky rebels
Of the then untamed desert, brought to joust
In the arena (as right well they might,
When they had left no human foe uncon-
quer'd);
Made even the forest pay its tribute of
Life to their amphitheatre, as well
As Dacia men to die the eternal death
For a sole instant's pastime, and "Pass on
To a new gladiator!"—Must it fall?

Cæs. The city, or the amphitheatre?
The church, or one, or all? for you confound
Both them and me.

Arn. To-morrow sounds the assault
With the first cock-crow.

Cæs. Which, if it end with
The evening's first nightingale, will be
Something new in the annals of great sieges;
For men must have their prey after long toil.

Arn. The sun goes down as calmly and
perhaps
More beautifully, than he did on Rome
On the day Remus leapt her wall.

Cæs. I saw him.

Arn. You!

Cæs. Yes, sir. You forget I am or was
Spirit, till I took up with your cast shape,
And a worse name. I'm Cæsar and a hunch-
back
Now. Well! the first of Cæsars was a bald-
head,
And loved his laurels better as a wig
(So history says) than as a glory. Thus
The world runs on, but we'll be merry still.
I saw your Romulus (simple as I am) [womb,
Slay his own twin, quick-born of the same
Because he leapt a ditch ('twas then no wall,
Whate'er it now be); and Rome's earliest
cement
Was brother's blood; and if its native blood
Be spilt till the choked Tiber be as red
As e'er 'twas yellow, it will never wear
The deep hue of the ocean and the earth,
Which the great robber sons of fratricide
Have made their never-ceasing scene of
For ages. [slaughter

Arn. But what have these done, their far
Remote descendants, who have lived in peace,
The peace of heaven, and in her sunshine of
Piety? [old

Cæs. And what had *they* done, whom the
Romans o'erswept?—Hark!

Arn. They are soldiers singing
A reckless roundelay, upon the eve
Of many deaths, it may be of their own.

Cæs. And why should they not sing as well
They are black ones, to be sure. [as swans?

Arn. So, you are learn'd,
I see, too?

Cæs. In my grammar, certes. I
Was educated for a monk of all times,
And once I was well versed in the forgotten
Etruscan letters, and—were I so minded—
Could make their hieroglyphics plainer than
Your alphabet.

Arn. And wherefore do you not?

Cæs. It answers better to resolve the al-
phabet [man,
Back into hieroglyphics. Like your states-
And prophet, pontiff, doctor, alchymist,
Philosopher, and what not, they have built
More Babels, without new dispersion, than
The stammering young ones of the flood's dull
oozè, [marry,
Who fail'd and fled each other. Why? why,
Because no man could understand his neigh-
bor.
They are wiser now, and will not separate
For nonsense. Nay, it is their brotherhood,
Their Shibboleth, their Koran, Talmud, their
Cabala; their best brick-work, wherewithal
They build more— [ing sneerer!

Arn. [*interrupting him*]. Oh, thou everlast-
Be silent! How the soldier's rough strain
seems
Soften'd by distance to a hymn-like cadence!
Listen!

Cæs. Yes. I have heard the angels sing.

Arn. And demons howl.

Cæs. And man, too. Let us listen:
I love all music.

Song of the Soldiers within.

The black bands came over
The Alps and their snow;
With Bourbon, the rover,
They pass'd the broad Po.
We have beaten all foemen,
We have captured a king,
We have turn'd back on no men,
And so let us sing!
Here's the Bourbon forever!
Though penniless all,
We'll have one more endeavor
At yonder old wall.
With the Bourbon we'll gather
At day-dawn before
The gates, and together
Or break or climb o'er
The wall: on the ladder
As mounts each firm foot,
Our shout shall grow gladder,
And death only be mute.
With the Bourbon we'll mount o'er
The walls of old Rome,
And who then shall count o'er
The spoils of each dome?
Up! up with the lily!
And down with the keys!
In old Rome, the seven-hilly,
We'll revel at ease.
Her streets shall be gory,
Her Tiber all red,
And her temples so hoary
Shall clang with our tread.
Oh, the Bourbon! the Bourbon!
The Bourbon for aye!
Of our song bear the burden!
And fire, fire away!
With Spain for the vanguard,
Our varied host comes;

And next to the Spaniard
Beat Germany's drums;
And Italy's lances
Are couch'd at their mother;
But our leader from France is
Who warr'd with his brother.
Oh, the Bourbon! the Bourbon!
Sans country or home,
We'll follow the Bourbon
To plunder old Rome.

Cæs. An indifferent song
For those within the walls, methinks, to hear.

Arn. Yes, if they keep to their chorus. But here comes
The general with his chiefs and men of trust.
A goodly rebel!*

Enter the Constable BOURBON "*cum suis*," *etc., etc.*

Phil. How now, noble prince.
You are not cheerful?

Bourb. Why should I be so?

Phil. Upon the eve of conquest, such as
Most men would be so. [ours,

Bourb. If I were secure!

Phil. Doubt not our soldiers. Were the walls of adamant, [ery.
They'd crack them. Hunger is a sharp artill-

Bourb. That they will falter is my least of fears.
That they will be repulsed, with Bourbon for
Their chief, and all their kindled appetites
To marshal them on—were those hoary walls
Mountains, and those who guard them like the gods
Of the old fables, I would trust my Titans;—
But now— [mortals.

Phil. They are but men who war with

Bourb. True; but those walls have girded in great ages,
And sent forth mighty spirits. The past earth
And present phantom of imperious Rome
Is peopled with those warriors; and methinks
They flit along the eternal city's rampart,
And stretch their glorious, gory, shadowy
And beckon me away! [hands,

Phil. So let them! Wilt thou
Turn back from shadowy menaces of shadows?

Bourb. They do not menace me. I could have faced,
Methinks, a Sylla's menace; but they clasp,
And raise, and wring their dim and deathlike hands,
And with their thin aspen faces and fix'd eyes
Fascinate mine. Look there!

Phil. I look upon
A lofty battlement.

Bourb. And there!

Phil. Not even
A guard in sight; they wisely keep below,
Shelter'd by the grey parapet from some
Stray bullet of our lansquenets, who might
Practice in the cool twilight.

Bourb. You are blind.

Phil. If seeing nothing more than may be
Be so. [seen

Bourb. A thousand years have mann'd the walls
With all their heroes,—the last Cato stands
And tears his bowels, rather than survive
The liberty of that I would enslave.
And the first Cæsar with his triumphs flits
From battlement to battlement.

Phil. Then conquer
The walls for which he conquer'd, and be greater!

Bourb. True: so I will, or perish.

Phil. You can *not*.
In such an enterprise to die is rather
The dawn of an eternal day than death.

[*Count* ARNOLD *and* CÆSAR *advance.*

Cæs. And the mere men—do they too sweat beneath
The noon of this same ever-scorching glory?

Bourb. Ah!
Welcome the bitter hunchback! and his master, [ous,
The beauty of our host, and brave as beauteAnd generous as lovely. We shall find
Work for you both ere morning.

Cæs. You will find,
So please your highness, no less for yourself.

Bourb. And if I do, there will not be a
More forward, hunchback! [laborer

Cæs. You may well say so,
For *you* have seen that back—as general
Placed in the rear in action—but your foes
Have never seen it.

Bourb. That's a fair retort,
For I provoked it:—but the Bourbon's breast
Has been, and ever shall be, far advanced
In danger's face as yours, were you the *devil*.

Cæs. And if I were, I might have saved
The toil of coming here. [myself

Phil. Why so?

Cæs. One half
Of your brave bands of their own bold accord
Will go to him, the other half be sent,
More swiftly, not less surely.

Bourb. Arnold, your
Slight crooked friend's as snake-like in his
As his deeds. [words

Cæs. Your highness much mistakes me.
The first snake was a flatterer—I am none;
And for my deeds, I only sting when stung.

Bourb. You are brave, and that's enough for me: and quick
In speech as sharp in action—and that's more.
I am not alone a soldier, but the soldiers' Comrade. [ness;

Cæs. They are but bad company, your highAnd worse even for their friends than foes,
More permanent acquaintance. [as being

Phil. How now, fellow!
Thou waxest insolent, beyond the privilege
Of a buffoon.

Cæs. You mean I speak the truth.
I'll lie—it is as easy: then you'll praise me

* The Constable de Bourbon being persecuted by the mother of Francis I. because he declined accepting her hand in marriage, turned rebel and transferred his services to the Emperor Charles V.

For calling you a hero.
Bourb. Philibert,
Let him alone; he's brave, and ever has
Been first with that swart face and mountain shoulder,
In field or storm, and patient in starvation;
And for his tongue, the camp is full of license,
And the sharp stinging of a lively rogue
Is, to my mind, far preferable to
The gross, dull, heavy, gloomy execration
Of a mere famish'd, sullen, grumbling slave,
Whom nothing can convince save a full meal,
And wine, and sleep, and a few maravedis,
With which he deems him rich.
Cæs. It would be well
If the earth's princes ask'd no more.
Bourb. Be silent!
Cæs. Ay, but not idle. Work yourself with
You have few to speak. [words.
Phil. What means the audacious prater?
Cæs. To prate like other prophets.
Bourb. Philibert!
Why will you vex him? Have we not enough
To think on? Arnold! I will lead the attack
To-morrow.
Arn. I have heard as much, my lord.
Bourb. And you will follow?
Arn. Since I must not lead.
Bourb. 'Tis necessary for the further daring
Of our too needy army, that their chief
Plant the first foot upon the foremost ladder's
First step.
Cæs. Upon its topmost, let us hope:
So shall he have his full deserts.
Bourb. The world's
Great capital perchance is ours to-morrow.
Through every change the seven-hill'd city hath
Retain'd her sway o'er nations, and the Cæsars
But yielded to the Alarics, the Alarics
Unto the pontiffs. Roman, Goth, or priest,
Still the world's masters! Civilized, barbarian,
Or saintly, still the walls of Romulus
Have been the circus of an empire. Well!
'Twas *their* turn—now 'tis ours: and let us hope [better.
That we will fight as well, and rule much
Cæs. No doubt the camp's the school of civic rights.
What would you make of Rome?
Bourb. That which it was.
Cæs. In Alaric's time?
Bourb. No, slave! in the first Cæsar's,
Whose name you bear like other curs—
Cæs. And kings!
'Tis a great name for bloodhounds.
Bourb. There's a demon
In that fierce rattlesnake, thy tongue. Wilt
Be serious? [never
Cæs. On the eve of battle, no;—
That were not soldier-like. 'Tis for the general
To be more pensive: we adventurers [think?
Must be more cheerful. Wherefore should we
Our tutelar deity, in a leader's shape,
Takes care of us. Keep thought aloof from hosts!
If the knaves take to thinking, you will have
To crack those walls alone.
Bourb. You may sneer, since
'Tis lucky for you that you fight no worse for't. [only
Cæs. I thank you for the freedom; 'tis the
Pay I have taken in your highness' service.
Bourb. Well, sir, to-morrow you shall pay yourself.
Look on those towers; they hold my treasury;
But, Philibert, we'll in to council. Arnold,
We would request your presence.
Arn. Prince! my service
Is yours, as in the field.
Bourb. In both we prize it,
And yours will be a post of trust at daybreak.
Cæs. And mine?
Bourb. To follow glory with the Bourbon.
Good-night!
Arn. [*to* Cæsar]. Prepare our armor for
And wait within my tent. [the assault,
[*Exeunt* Bourbon, Arnold, Philibert, *etc.*
Cæs. [*solus*]. Within thy tent!
Think'st thou that I pass from thee with my presence?
Or that this crooked coffer, which contain'd
Thy principle of life, is aught to me [sooth!
Except a mask? And these are men, forsooth!
Heroes and chiefs, the flower of Adam's bastards!
This is the consequence of giving matter
The power of thought. It is a stubborn substance,
And thinks chaotically, as it acts,
Ever relapsing into its first elements.
Well! I must play with these poor puppets: 'tis
The spirit's pastime in his idler hours.
When I grow weary of it I have business
Amongst the stars, which these poor creatures deem [jest now
Were made for them to look at. 'Twere a
To bring one down amongst them, and set fire
Unto their ant-hill; how the pismires, then
Would scamper o'er the scalding soil, and, ceasing [forth
From tearing down each other's nests, pipe
One universal orison. Ha! ha!

[*Exit* Cæsar.

PART II.

Scene I.—*Before the walls of Rome: the Assault; the Army in motion, with ladders to scale the walls;* Bourbon, *with a white scarf over his armor, foremost.*

Chorus of Spirits in the air.

I.

'Tis the morn, but dim and dark,
Whither flies the silent lark?
Whither shrinks the clouded sun?
Is the day indeed begun?
Nature's eye is melancholy
O'er the city high and holy:
But without there is a din

Should arouse the saints within,
And revive the heroic ashes
Round which yellow Tiber dashes.
Oh, ye seven hills! awaken,
Ere your very base be shaken!

II.

Hearken to the steady stamp!
Mars is in their every tramp!
Not a step is out of tune,
As the tides obey the moon:
On they march, though to self-slaughter,
Regular as rolling water,
Whose high waves o'ersweep the border
Of huge moles, but keep their order,
Breaking only rank by rank.
Hearken to the armor's clank!
Look down o'er each frowning warrior,
How he glares upon the barrier:
Look on each step of each ladder,
As the stripes that streak an adder.

III.

Look upon the bristling wall,
Mann'd without an interval!
Round and round, and tier on tier,
Cannon's black mouth, shining spear,
Lit match, bell-mouth'd musquetoon,
Gaping to be murderous soon;
All the warlike gear of old,
Mix'd with what we now behold,
In the strife 'twixt old and new,
Gather like a locusts' crew.
Shade of Remus! 'tis a time
Awful as thy brother's crime!
Christians war against Christ's shrine:—
Must its lot be like to thine?

IV.

Near—and near—and nearer still,
As the earthquake saps the hill,
First with trembling, hollow motion,
Like a scarce-awaken'd ocean,
Then with stronger shock and louder,
Till the rocks are crush'd to powder,—
Onward sweeps the rolling host!
Heroes of the immortal boast!
Mighty chiefs! eternal shadows!
First flowers of the bloody meadows
Which encompass Rome, the mother
Of a people without brother!
Will you sleep when nations' quarrels
Plough the root up of your laurels?
Ye who weep o'er Carthage burning,
Weep not—*strike!* for Rome is mourning.*

V.

Onward sweep the varied nations!
Famine long hath dealt their rations.
To the wall, with hate and hunger,
Numerous as wolves, and stronger,
On they sweep. Oh, glorious city!
Must thou be a theme for pity?

Fight, like your first sire, each Roman!
Alaric was a gentle foeman,
Match'd with Bourbon's black banditti!
Rouse thee, thou eternal city;
Rouse thee! Rather give the torch
With thine own hand to thy porch,
Than behold such hosts pollute
Your worst dwelling with their foot.

VI.

Ah! behold yon bleeding spectre!
Ilion's children find no Hector;
Priam's offspring loved their brother;
Rome's great sire forgot his mother,
When he slew his gallant twin,
With inexpiable sin.
See the giant shadow stride
O'er the ramparts high and wide!
When the first o'erleapt thy wall,
Its foundation mourn'd thy fall.
Now, though towering like a Babel,
Who to stop his steps are able?
Stalking o'er thy highest dome,
Remus claims his vengeance, Rome!

VII.

Now they reach thee in their anger:
Fire and smoke and hellish clangor
Are around thee, thou world's wonder!
Death is in thy walls and under.
Now the meeting steel first clashes,
Downward then the ladder crashes,
With its iron load all gleaming,
Lying at its foot blaspheming!
Up again! for every warrior
Slain, another climbs the barrier.
Thicker grows the strife: thy ditches
Europe's mingling gore enriches.
Rome! although thy wall may perish,
Such manure thy fields will cherish,
Making gay the harvest-home;
But thy hearths, alas! oh, Rome!—
Yet be Rome amidst thine anguish,
Fight as thou wast wont to vanquish!

VIII.

Yet once more, ye old Penates!
Let not your quench'd hearths be Até's!
Yet again, ye shadowy heroes,
Yield not to these stranger Neros!
Though the son who slew his mother
Shed Rome's blood, he was your brother:
'Twas the Roman curb'd the Roman;—
Brennus was a baffled foeman.
Yet again, ye saints and martyrs,
Rise! for yours are holier charters!
Mighty gods of temples falling,
Yet in ruin still appalling!
Mightier founders of those altars,
True and Christian—strike the assaulters!
Tiber! Tiber! let thy torrent
Show even nature's self abhorrent.
Let each breathing heart dilated
Turn, as doth the lion baited!
Rome be crush'd to one wide tomb,
But be still the Roman's Rome!

* Scipio, the second Africanus, is said to have repeated a verse of Homer, and wept o'er the burning of Carthage. He had better have granted it a capitulation.

Bourbon, Arnold, Cæsar, *and others, arrive at the foot of the wall.* Arnold *is about to plant his ladder.*

Bourb. Hold, Arnold! I am first.
Arn. Not so, my lord.
Bourb. Hold, sir, I charge you! Follow, I am proud
Of such a follower, but will brook no leader.
[Bourbon *plants his ladder, and begins to*
Now, boys! On! on! [*mount.*
[*A shot strikes him, and* Bourbon *falls.*
Cæs. And off!
Arn. Eternal powers!
The host will be appall'd,—but vengeance! vengeance!
Bourb. 'Tis nothing—lend me your hand.
[Bourbon *takes* Arnold *by the hand, and rises; but as he puts his foot on the step, falls again.*
Arnold! I am sped.
Conceal my fall—all will go well—conceal it!
Fling my cloak o'er what will be dust anon;
Let not the soldiers see it.
Arn. You must be
Removed; the aid of—
Bourb. No, my gallant boy,
Death is upon me. But what is *one* life?
The Bourbon's spirit shall command them still.
Keep them yet ignorant that I am but clay,
Till they are conquerors—then do as you may.
Cæs. Would not your highness choose to kiss the cross?
We have no priest here, but the hilt of sword
May serve instead:—it did the same for Bayard. [this time!
Bourb. Thou bitter slave! to name *him* at
But I deserve it.
Arn. [*to* Cæsar]. Villain, hold your peace!
Cæs. What, when a Christian dies? Shall I
A Christian "Vade in pace"? [not offer
Arn. Silence! Oh!
Those eyes are glazing which o'erlooked the
And saw no equal. [world,
Bourb. Arnold—shouldst thou see
France—But hark! hark! the assault grows warmer—Oh!
For but an hour, a minute more of life,
To die within the wall! Hence, Arnold, hence!
You lose time—they will conquer Rome without thee! [out thee.
Arn. And without *thee!*
Bourb. Not so; I'll lead them still
In spirit. Cover up my dust, and breathe not
That I have ceased to breathe. Away! and
Victorious. [be
Arn. But I must not leave thee thus.
Bourb. You must—farewell—Up! up! the world is winning. [Bourbon *dies.*
Cæs. [*to* Arnold]. Come, count, to business.
Arn. True. I'll weep hereafter.
[Arnold *covers* Bourbon's *body with a mantle, mounts the ladder, crying—*
The Bourbon! Bourbon! On, boys! Rome is ours! [a man.
Cæs. Good-night, lord constable! thou wert
[Cæsar *follows* Arnold; *they reach the battlement;* Arnold *and* Cæsar *are struck down.* [ship injured?
Cæs. A precious somerset! Is your count-
Arn. No. [*Remounts the ladder.*
Cæs. A rare blood-hound, when his own is heated! [down!
And 'tis no boy's play. Now he strikes them
His hand is on the battlement—he grasps it
As though it were an altar; now his foot
Is on it, and—What have we here? a Roman? [*A man falls.*
The first bird of the covey! he has fallen
On the outside of the nest. Why, how now,
Wounded Man. A drop of water! [fellow?
Cæs. Blood's the only liquid
Nearer than Tiber.
Wounded Man. I have died for Rome.
[*Dies.*
Cæs. And so did Bourbon, in another sense.
Oh, these immortal men! and their great motives!
But I must after my young charge. He is
By this time i' the forum. Charge! Charge!
[Cæsar *mounts the ladder; the scene closes.*

Scene II.—*The City.—Combats between the Besiegers and Besieged in the streets. Inhabitants flying in confusion.*

Enter Cæsar.

Cæs. I cannot find my hero; he is mix'd
With the heroic crowd that now pursue
The fugitives, or battle with the desperate.
What have we here? A cardinal or two
That do not seem in love with martyrdom.
How the old red-shanks scamper! Could they doff ['twould be
Their hose as they have doff'd their hats,
A blessing, as a mark the less for plunder.
But let them fly; the crimson kennels now
Will not much stain their stockings, since the
Is of the self-same purple hue. [mire

Enter a party fighting; Arnold *at the head of the Besiegers.*

He comes.
Hand in hand with the mild twins—Gore and
Holla! hold, count! [Glory.
Arn. Away! they must not rally.
Cæs. I tell thee, be not rash; a golden
Is for a flying enemy. I gave thee [bridge
A form of beauty, and an
Exemption from some maladies of body,
But not of mind, which is not mine to give.
But though I gave the form of Thetis' son,
I dipt thee not in Styx; and 'gainst a foe
I would not warrant thy chivalric heart
More than Pelides' heel; why, then, be cau-
And know thyself a mortal still. [tious,
Arn. And who
With aught of soul would combat if he were
Invulnerable? That were pretty sport.
Think'st thou I beat for hares when lions roar?
[Arnold *rushes into the combat.*
Cæs. A precious sample of humanity!

Well, his blood's up; and if a little's shed,
'Twill serve to curb his fever.

[ARNOLD *engages with a Roman, who retires towards a portico.*

Arn. Yield thee, slave!
I promise quarter.
Rom. That's soon said.
Arn. And done—
My word is known.
Rom. So shall be my deeds.
[*They re-engage.* CÆSAR *comes forward.*
Cæs. Why, Arnold! hold thine own: thou hast in hand
A famous artisan, a cunning sculptor;
Also a dealer in the sword and dagger.
Not so, my musqueteer; 'twas he who slew
The Bourbon from the wall.
Arn. Ay, did he so?
Then he hath carved his monument.
Rom. I yet
May live to carve your better's.
Cæs. Well said, my man of marble! Benvenuto, [he
Thou hast some practice in both ways; and
Who slays Cellini will have work'd as hard
As e'er thou didst upon Carrara's blocks.

[ARNOLD *disarms and wounds* CELLINI, *but slightly; the latter draws a pistol, and fires; then retires, and disappears through the portico.*

Cæs. How farest thou? Thou hast a taste,
Of red Bellona's banquet. [methinks,
Arn. [*staggers*]. 'Tis a scratch.
Lend me thy scarf. He shall not 'scape me
Cæs. Where is it? [thus.
Arn. In the shoulder, not the sword arm—
And that's enough. I am thirsty: would I had
A helm of water!
Cæs. That's a liquid now
I requisition, but by no means easiest
To come at.
Arn. And my thirst increases;—but
I'll find a way to quench it.
Cæs. Or be quench'd
Thyself.
Arn. The chance is even; we will throw
The dice thereon. But I lose time in prating;
Prithee be quick. [CÆSAR *binds on the scarf.*
And what dost thou so idly?
Why dost not strike?
Cæs. Your old philosophers
Beheld mankind, as mere spectators of
The Olympic games. When I behold a prize
Worth wrestling for, I may be found a Milo.
Arn. Ay, 'gainst an oak.
Cæs. A forest, when it suits me.
I combat with a mass, or not at all.
Meantime, pursue thy sport as I do mine;
Which is just now to gaze, since all these
Will reap my harvest gratis. [laborers
Arn. Thou art still
A fiend!
Cæs. And thou—a man.
Arn. Why, such I fain would show me.
Cæs. True—as men are.
Arn. And what is that?
Cæs. Thou feelest and thou seest.
[*Exit* ARNOLD, *joining in the combat, which still continues between detached parties. The scene closes.*

SCENE III.—*St. Peter's. The Interior of the Church; the Pope at the Altar; Priests, etc., crowding in the confusion, and Citizens flying for refuge, pursued by Soldiery.*

Enter CÆSAR.

A Spanish Soldier. Down with them, comrades! seize upon those lamps!
Cleave yon bald-pated shaveling to the chine!
His rosary's of gold!
Lutheran Soldier. Revenge! revenge!
Plunder hereafter, but for vengeance now—
Yonder stands Anti-Christ!
Cæs. [*interposing*]. How now, schismatic?
What wouldst thou?
Luth. Sold. In the holy name of Christ,
Destroy proud Anti-Christ. I am a Christian.
Cæs. Yes, a disciple that would make the founder
Of our belief renounce it, could he see
Such proselytes. Best stint thyself to plunder.
Luth. Sold. I say he is the devil.
Cæs. Hush! keep that secret,
Lest he should recognize you for his own.
Luth. Sold. Why would you save him? I repeat he is
The devil, or the devil's vicar upon earth.
Cæs. And that's the reason: would you make a quarrel [quiet;
With your best friends? You had far best be
His hour is not yet come.
Luth. Sold. That shall be seen!

[*The* LUTHERAN SOLDIER *rushes forward: a shot strikes him from one of the Pope's Guards, and he falls at the foot of the Altar.*

Cæs. [*to the* LUTHERAN]. I told you so.
Luth. Sold. And will you not avenge me?
Cæs. Not I! You know that "Vengeance is the Lord's":
You see he loves no interlopers.
Luth. Sold. [*dying*]. Oh!
Had I but slain him, I had gone on high,
Crown'd with eternal glory! Heaven, forgive
My feebleness of arm that reach'd him not,
And take thy servant to thy mercy. 'Tis
A glorious triumph still; proud Babylon's
No more; the Harlot of the Seven Hills
Hath changed her scarlet raiment for sackcloth
And ashes! [*The* LUTHERAN *dies.*
Cæs. Yes, thine own amidst the rest.
Well done, old Babel!

[*The* GUARDS *defend themselves desperately, while the* PONTIFF *escapes by a private passage, to the Vatican and the castle of St. Angelo.*

Cæs. Ha! right nobly battled:
Now, priest! now, soldier! the two great professions,

Together by the ears and hearts! I have not
Seen a more comic pantomime since Titus
Took Jewry. But the Romans had the best
Now they must take their turn. [then;
Soldiers. He hath escaped!
Follow!
Another Sold. They have barr'd the narrow passage up,
And it is clogg'd with dead even to the door.
Cæs. I am glad he hath escaped: he may thank me for't
In part. I would not have his bulls abolish'd—
'Twere worth one half our empire: his indulgences
Demand some in return;—no, no, he must not
Fall;—and, besides, his now escape may furnish
A future miracle, in future proof [
Of his infallibility. [*To the* Spanish Soldiery.
Well, cut-throats!
What do you pause for? If you make not haste
There will not be a link of pious gold left.
And *you*, too, Catholics! Would ye return
From such a pilgrimage without a relic?
The very Lutherans have more true devotion.
See how they strip the shrines!
Soldiers. By holy Peter!
He speaks the truth; the heretics will bear
The best away.
Cæs. And that were shame! Go to!
Assist in their conversion. [*The* Soldiers *disperse; many quit the Church, others enter.*
Cæs. They are gone,
And others come: so flows the wave on wave
Of what these creatures call eternity,
Deeming themselves the breakers of the ocean,
While they are but its bubbles, ignorant
That foam is their foundation. So another!

Enter Olimpia, *flying from the pursuit—She springs upon the Altar.*

Sold. She's mine!
Another Sold. [*opposing the former*]. You lie, I track'd her first: and were she
The Pope's niece, I'll not yield her.
[*They fight.*
3d Sold. [*advancing towards* Olimpia]. You may settle
Your claims; I'll make mine good.
Olimp. Infernal slave!
You touch me not alive.
3d Sold. Alive or dead!
Olimp. [*embracing a massive crucifix*]. Respect your God!
3d Sold. Yes, when he shines in gold.
Girl, you but grasp your dowry.
[*As he advances,* Olimpia, *with a strong and sudden effort, casts down the crucifix; it strikes the Soldier, who falls.*
3d Sold. Oh, great God!
Olimp. Ah! now you recognize him.
3d Sold. My brain is crushed!
Comrades, help, ho! All's darkness!
[*He dies.*
Other Soldiers [*coming up*]. Slay her, although she had a thousand lives:
She hath kill'd our comrade.
Olimp. Welcome such a death!
You have no life to give, which the worst slave
Would take. Great God! through thy redeeming Son,
And thy Son's Mother, now receive me as
I would approach thee, worthy her, and him, and thee!

Enter Arnold.

Arn. What do I see? Accursed jackals! Forbear!
Cæs. [*aside and laughing*]. Ha! ha! here's equity! The dogs
Have as much right as he. But to the issue!
Soldiers. Count, she hath slain our comrade.
Arn. With what weapon?
Sold. The cross, beneath which he is crush'd; behold him [cast it
Lie there, more like a worm than man; she
Upon his head.
Arn. Even so; there is a woman
Worthy a brave man's liking. Were ye such,
Ye would have honor'd her. But get ye hence,
And thank your meanness, other God you have none,
For your existence. Had you touch'd a hair
Of those dishevell'd locks, I would have thinn'd
Your ranks more than the enemy. Away!
Ye jackals! gnaw the bones the lion leaves,
But not even these till he permits.
A Sold. [*murmuring*]. The lion
Might conquer for himself then.
Arn. [*cuts him down*]. Mutineer!
Rebel in hell—you shall obey on earth!
[*The Soldiers assault* Arnold.
Arn. Come on! I'm glad on't! I will show you slaves, [you
How you should be commanded, and who led
First o'er the wall you were so shy to scale,
Until I waved my banners from its height,
As you are bold within it.
[Arnold *mows down the foremost; the rest throw down their arms.*
Soldiers. Mercy! mercy!
Arn. Then learn to grant it. Have I taught you *who*
Led you o'er Rome's eternal battlements?
Soldiers. We saw it, and we know it; yet forgive
A moment's error in the heat of conquest—
The conquest which you led to.
Arn. Get you hence!
Hence to your quarters! you will find them
In the Colonna palace. [fixed
Olimp. [*aside*]. In my father's House! [have no further need
Arn. [*to the soldiers*]. Leave your arms; ye
Of such; the city's render'd. And mark well
You keep your hands clean, or I'll find out a stream
As red as Tiber now runs, for your baptism.
Soldiers. [*depositing their arms and departing*]. We obey!

Arn. [*to* OLIMPIA]. Lady, you are safe.
Olimp. I should be so
Had I a knife even; but it matters not—
Death hath a thousand gates; and on the marble,
Even at the altar foot, whence I look down
Upon destruction, shall my head be dash'd,
Ere thou ascend it. God forgive thee, man!
Arn. I wish to merit His forgiveness, and
Thine own, although I have not injured thee.
Olimp. No! Thou hast only sack'd my native land,—
No injury!—and made my father's house
A den of thieves!—No injury!—this temple—
Slippery with Roman and with holy gore!
No injury! And thou wouldst preserve me,
To be—but that shall never be!
[*She raises her eyes to heaven, folds her robe round her, and prepares to dash herself down on the side of the Altar opposite to that where* ARNOLD *stands.*
Arn. Hold! hold!
I swear.
Olimp. Spare thine already forfeit soul
A perjury for which even hell would loathe
I know thee. [thee.
Arn. No, thou know'st me not; I am not
Of these men, though—
Olimp. I judge thee by thy mates;
It is for God to judge thee as thou art.
I see thee purple with the blood of Rome;
Take mine, 'tis all thou e'er shalt have of me,
And here, upon the marble of this temple,
Where the baptismal font baptized me God's,
I offer him a blood less holy
But not less pure (pure as it left me then,
A redeem'd infant) than the holy water
The saints have sanctified.
[OLIMPIA *waves her hand to* ARNOLD *with disdain, and dashes herself on the pavement from the Altar.*
Arn. Eternal God!
I feel thee now! Help! help! She's gone!
Cæs. [*approaches*]. I am here.
Arn. Thou! but oh, save her!
Cæs. [*assisting him to raise* OLIMPIA]. She
The leap was serious. [hath done it well,
Arn. Oh! she is lifeless!
Cæs. If
She be so, I have nought to do with that:
The resurrection is beyond me.
Arn. Slave!
Cæs. Ay, slave or master, 'tis all one: methinks
Good words, however, are as well at times.
Arn. Words!—canst thou aid her?
Cæs. I will try. A sprinkling
Of that same holy water may be useful.
[*He brings some in his helmet from the font.*
Arn. 'Tis mix'd with blood.
Cæs. There is no cleaner now
In Rome. [less!
Arn. How pale! how beautiful! how life-
Alive or dead, thou essence of all beauty,
I love but thee!
Cæs. Even so Achilles loved
Penthesilea: with his form it seems [one
You have his heart, and yet it was no soft
Arn. She breathes! But no, 'twas nothing; or the last
Faint flutter life disputes with death.
Cæs. She breathes.
Arn. *Thou* say'st it? Then 'tis truth.
Cæs. You do me right—
The devil speaks truth much oftener than he's deem'd:
He hath an ignorant audience. [heart beats.
Arn. [*without attending to him*]. Yes! her
Alas! that the first beat of the only heart
I ever wish'd to beat with mine should vibrate
To an assassin's pulse.
Cæs. A sage reflection,
But somewhat late i' the day. Where shall
I say she lives. [we bear her?
Arn. And will she live?
Cæs. As much
As dust can.
Arn. Then she is dead!
Cæs. Bah! bah! You are so,
And do not know it. She will come to life—
Such as you think so, such as you now are;
But we must work by human means.
Arn. We will
Convey her unto the Colonna palace,
Where I have pitched my banner.
Cæs. Come then! raise her up
Arn. Softly!
Cæs. As softly as they bear the dead!
Perhaps because they cannot feel the jolting.
Arn. But doth she live indeed?
Cæs. Nay, never fear
But, if you rue it after, blame not me.
Arn. Let her but live!
Cæs. The spirit of her life
Is yet within her breast, and may revive.
Count! count! I am your servant in all things.
And this is a new office:—'tis not oft
I am employ'd in such; but you perceive
How stanch a friend is what you call a fiend
On earth you have often only fiends for friends;
Now *I* desert not mine. Soft! bear her hence:
The beautiful half-clay, and nearly spirit!
I am almost enamour'd of her, as
Of old the angels of her earlier sex.
Arn. Thou!
Cæs. I! But fear not. I'll not be your rival!
Arn. Rival!
Cæs. I could be one right formidable
But since I slew the seven husbands of
Tobias' future bride (and after all
Was suck'd out by some incense), I have laid
Aside intrigue: 'tis rarely worth the trouble
Of gaining, or—what is more difficult—
Getting rid of your prize again; for there's
The rub! at least to mortals.
Arn. Prithee, peace
Softly! methinks her lips move, her eye
open! [metapho
Cæs. Like stars, no doubt; for that's
For Lucifer and Venus.
Arn. To the palace

Colonna, as I told you!

Cæs. Oh! I know
My way through Rome.

Arn. Now onward, onward! Gently!

[*Exeunt, bearing* OLIMPIA. *The scene closes.*

PART III.

SCENE I.—*A Castle in the Apennines, surrounded by a wild but smiling Country. Chorus of* PEASANTS *singing before the gates.*

Chorus.

I.

The wars are over,
The spring is come;
The bride and her lover
Have sought their home:
They are happy, we rejoice;
Let their hearts have an echo in every voice!

II.

The spring is come; the violet's gone,
The first-born child of the early sun:
With us she is but a winter's flower,
The snow on the hills cannot blast her bower,
And she lifts up her dewy eye of blue
To the youngest sky of the self-same hue.

III.

And when the spring comes with her host
Of flowers, that flower beloved the most
Shrinks from the crowd that may confuse
Her heavenly odor and virgin hues.

IV.

Pluck the others, but still remember
Their herald out of dim December—
The morning star of all the flowers,
The pledge of daylight's lengthen'd hours,
Nor, midst the roses, e'er forget
The virgin, virgin violet.

Enter CÆSAR.

Cæs. [*singing*]. The wars are all over,
Our swords are all idle,
The steed bites the bridle,
The casque's on the wall.
There's rest for the rover;
But his armor is rusty,
And the veteran grows crusty,
As he yawns in the hall.
He drinks—but what's drinking?
A mere pause from thinking!
No bugle awakes him with life-and-death call.

Chorus.

But the hound bayeth loudly,
The boar's in in the wood,
And the falcon longs proudly
To spring from her hood:
On the wrist of the noble
She sits like a crest,
And the air is in trouble
With birds from their nest.

Cæs. Oh! shadow of glory!
Dim image of war!
But the chase hath no story,
Her hero no star,
Since Nimrod, the founder
Of empire and chase,
Who made the woods wonder
And quake for their race.
When the lion was young,
In the pride of his might,
Then 'twas sport for the strong
To embrace him in fight;
To go forth, with a pine
For a spear, 'gainst the Mammoth,
Or strike through the ravine
At the foaming Behemoth;
While man was in stature
As towers in our time,
The first-born of nature,
And, like her, sublime!

Chorus.

But the wars are over,
The spring is come;
The bride and her lover
Have sought their home;
They are happy, and we rejoice; [voice!
Let their hearts have an echo from every

[*Exeunt the* PEASANTRY, *singing.*

DON JUAN.

1819.

"Difficile est proprie communia dicere."—HORACE.

"Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale? Yes, by St. Anne, and ginger shall be hot i' the mouth, too!"—SHAKSPEARE, "Twelfth Night, or What You Will."

CANTO THE FIRST.

FRAGMENT,

On the back of the Poet's MS. of Canto I.

I WOULD to heaven that I were so much clay,
As I am blood, bone, marrow, passion, feeling—
Because at least the past were passed away—
And for the future—but I write this reeling,
Having got drunk exceedingly to-day,
So that I seem to stand upon the ceiling)
I say—the future is a serious matter—
And so—for God's sake—hock and soda-water!

DEDICATION.

I.

BOB SOUTHEY! You're a poet—Poet-laureate,
And representative of all the race; [at
Although 'tis true that you turn'd out a Tory
Last—yours has lately been a common case—
And now, my Epic Renegade! what are ye at?
With all the Lakers, in and out of place?
A nest of tuneful persons, to my eye
Like "four-and-twenty Blackbirds in a pye;

II.

"Which pye being open'd they began to sing"
(This old song and new simile holds good),
"A dainty dish to set before the King,"
Or Regent, who admires such kind of food—
And Coleridge, too, has lately taken wing,
But like a hawk encumber'd with his hood—
Explaining metaphysics to the nation—
I wish he would explain his Explanation.

III.

You, Bob, are rather insolent, you know,
At being disappointed in your wish
To supersede all warblers here below,
And be the only blackbird in the dish;
And then you overstrain yourself, or so,
And tumble downward like the flying fish
Gasping on deck, because you soar too high, Bob,
And fall, for lack of moisture quite a-dry, Bob!

IV.

And Wordsworth, in a rather long "Excursion"
(I think the quarto holds five hundred pages),
Has given a sample from the vasty version
Of his new system to perplex the sages;
'Tis poetry—at least by his assertion,
And may appear so when the dog-star rages—
And he who understands it would be able
To add a story to the Tower of Babel.

V.

You—Gentlemen! by dint of long seclusion
From better company, have kept your own
At Keswick, and, through still continued fusion
Of one another's minds, at last have grown
To deem as a most logical conclusion,
That Poesy has wreaths for you alone;
There is a narrowness in such a notion,
Which makes me wish you'd change your lakes for ocean.

VI.

I would not imitate the petty thought,
Nor coin my self-love to so base a vice,
For all the glory your conversion brought,
Since gold alone should not have been its price, [wrought?
You have your salary; was't for that you
And Wordsworth has his place in the Excise! *
You're shabby fellows—true—but poets still,
And duly seated on the immortal hill.

VII.

Your bays may hide the baldness of your brows— [go—
Perhaps some virtuous blushes, let them
To you I envy neither fruit nor boughs,
And for the fame you would engross below,
The field is universal, and allows
Scope to all such as feel the inherent glow;
Scott, Rogers, Campbell, Moore, and Crabbe, will try
'Gainst you the question with posterity.

VIII.

For me, who, wandering with pedestrian Muses,
Contend not with you on the winged steed,
I wish your fate may yield ye, when she chooses,
The fame you envy and the skill you need;

* Wordsworth's place may be in the Customs—it is, I think, in that or the Excise—besides another at Lord Lonsdale's table, where this poetical charlatan and political parasite licks up the crumbs with a hardened alacrity: the converted Jacobin having long subsided into the clownish sycophant of the worst jealousies of the aristocracy.

And recollect a poet nothing loses
In giving to his brethren their full meed
Of merit, and complaint of present days
Is not the certain path to future praise.

IX.

He that reserves his laurels for posterity
(Who does not often claim the bright reversion)
Has generally no great crop to spare it, he
Being only injured by his own assertion;
And although here and there some glorious rarity
Arise like Titan from the sea's immersion,
The major part of such appellants go [know.
To—God knows where—for no one else can

X.

If, fallen in evil days on evil tongues,
Milton appealed to the Avenger, Time,
If Time, the Avenger, execrates his wrongs,
And makes the word "Miltonic" mean "*sublime*,"
He deign'd not to belie his soul in songs,
Nor turn his very talent to a crime;
He did not loathe the Sire to laud the Son,
But closed the tyrant-hater he begun.

XI.

Think'st thou, could he—the blind Old Man—arise, [more
Like Samuel from the grave, to freeze once
The blood of monarchs with his prophecies,
Or be alive again—again all hoar
With time and trials, and those helpless eyes,
And heartless daughters—worn—and pale*—and poor:
Would *he* adore a Sultan? *he* obey
The intellectual eunuch Castlereagh?†

XII.

Cold-blooded, smooth-faced, placid miscreant!
Dabbling its sleek young hands in Erin's gore,
And thus for wider carnage taught to pant,
Transferr'd to gorge upon a sister shore,
The vulgarest tool that Tyranny could want,
With just enough of talent, and no more,
To lengthen fetters by another fix'd,
And offer poison long already mix'd.

XIII.

An orator of such set trash of phrase
Ineffably—legitimately vile,
That even its grossest flatterers dare not praise,
Nor foes—all nations—condescend to smile;
Not even a sprightly blunder's spark can blaze
From that Ixion grindstone's ceaseless toil,
That turns and turns to give the world a notion
Of endless torments and perpetual motion.

XIV.

A bungler even in its disgusting trade,
And botching, patching, leaving still behind
Something of which its masters are afraid,
States to be curb'd, and thoughts to be con-
Conspiracy or Congress to be made— [fined,
Cobbling at manacles for all mankind—
A tinkering slave-maker, who mends old chains,
With God and man's abhorrence for its gains.

XV.

If we may judge of matter by the mind,
Emasculated to the marrow *It*
Hath but two objects, how to serve, and bind,
Deeming the chain it wears even men may
Eutropius of its many masters,—blind* [fit,
To worth as freedom, wisdow as to wit,
Fearless—because *no* feeling dwells in ice,
Its very courage stagnates to a vice.

XVI.

Where shall I turn me not to *view* its bonds,
For I will never *feel* them:—Italy!
Thy late reviving Roman soul desponds
Beneath the lie this State-thing breathed o'er thee— [wounds,
Thy clanking chain, and Erin's yet green
Have voices—tongues to cry aloud for me.
Europe has slaves—allies—kings—armies
And Southey lives to sing them very ill. [still,

XVII.

Meantime, Sir Laureate, I proceed to dedicate,
In honest simple verse, this song to you.
And if in flattering strains I do not predicate,
'Tis that I still retain my "buff and blue;"‡
My politics as yet are all to educate:
Apostasy's so fashionable, too, [culean:
To keep *one* creed's a task grown quite Her-
Is it not so, my Tory, Ultra-Julian?‡

VENICE, September 16, 1818.

I.

I WANT a hero: an uncommon want,
When every year and month sends forth a new one,
Till, after cloying the gazettes with cant,
The age discovers he is not the true one:
Of such as these I should not care to vaunt,
I'll therefore take our ancient friend Don Juan—
We all have seen him, in the pantomime,
Sent to the devil somewhat ere his time.

---

* "Pale, but not cadaverous:"—Milton's two elder daughters are said to have robbed him of his books, besides cheating and plaguing him in the economy of his house, etc., etc. His feelings on such an outrage, both as a parent and a scholar, must have been singularly painful. Hayley compares him to Lear. See part third, Life of Milton, by W. Hayley (or Hailey, as spelt in the edition before me).

† Or,—
"Would he subside into a hackney Laureate—
A scribbling, self-sold, soul-hired, scorn'd Iscariot!"

I doubt if "Laureate" and "Iscariot" be good rhymes, but must say, as Ben Jonson did to Sylvester, who challenged him to rhyme with—
I, John Sylvester,
Lay with your sister."
Jonson answered,—"I, Ben Jonson, lay with your wife." Sylvester answered,—"That is not rhyme."—"No," said Ben Jonson; "but it is true."

* For the character of Eutropius, the eunuch and minister at the court of Arcadius, see Gibbon.

† [The uniform of the Whig Club of Fox's time; hence the buff and blue cover of the "Edinburgh Review."]

‡ I allude not to our friend Landor's hero, the traitor Count Julian, but to Gibbon's hero, vulgarly yclept "The Apostate."

II.

Vernon, the butcher Cumberland, Wolfe, Hawke, [pel, Howe,
Prince Ferdinand, Granby, Burgoyne, Kep-
Evil and good, have had their tithe of talk,
And fill'd their sign-posts then, like Welles-
ley now; [stalk,
Each in their turn like Banquo's monarchs
Followers of fame, "nine farrow of that sow":
France, too, had Buonaparté and Dumourier
Recorded in the Moniteur and Courier.

III.

Barnave, Brissot, Condorcet, Mirabeau,
Petion, Clootz, Danton, Marat, La Fayette,
Were French, and famous people, as we know;
And there were others, scarce forgotten yet,
Joubert, Hoche, Marceau, Lannes, Dessaix,
With many of the military set, [Moreau,
Exceedingly remarkable at times,
But not at all adapted to my rhymes.

IV.

Nelson was once Britannia's god of war,
And still should be so, but the tide is turn'd:
There's no more to be said of Trafalgar,
'Tis with our hero quietly inurn'd;
Because the army's grown more popular,
At which the naval people are concern'd;
Besides, the prince is all for the land service,
Forgetting Duncan, Nelson, Howe, and Jervis.

V.

Brave men were living before Agamemnon,*
And since, exceeding valorous and sage,
A good deal like him too, though quite the same none;
But then they shone not on the poet's page,
And so have been forgotten;—I condemn
But can't find any in the present age [none,
Fit for my poem (that is, for my new one);
So, as I said, I'll take my friend Don Juan.

VI.

Most epic poems plunge *in medias res*
(Horace makes this the heroic turnpike road),
And then your hero tells, whene'er you please,
What went before—by way of episode,
While seated after dinner at his ease,
Beside his mistress in some soft abode,
Palace, or garden, paradise, or cavern,
Which serves the happy couple for a tavern.

VII.

That is the usual method, but not mine—
My way is to begin with the beginning;
The regularity of my design [ning,
Forbids all wandering as the worst of sin-
And therefore I shall open with a line [ning,
(Although it cost me half an hour in spin-
Narrating somewhat of Don Juan's father,
And also of his mother, if you'd rather.

VIII.

In Seville was he born, a pleasant city,
Famous for oranges and women: he
Who has not seen it will be much to pity,
So says the proverb*—and I quite agree;
Of all the Spanish towns is none more pretty,
Cadiz, perhaps—but that you soon may see—
Don Juan's parents lived beside the river,
A noble stream, and called the Guadalquivir.

IX.

His father's name was Jóse—*Don*, of course,
A true Hidalgo, free from every stain
Of Moor or Hebrew blood, he traced his source
Through the most Gothic gentlemen of Spain;
A better cavalier ne'er mounted horse,
Or, being mounted, e'er got down again,
Than Jóse, who begot our hero, who
Begot—but that's to come—Well, to renew.

X.

His mother was a learned lady, famed
For every branch of every science known—
In every Christian language ever named,
With virtues equall'd by her wit alone.
She made the cleverest people quite ashamed;
And even the good with inward envy groan,
Finding themselves so very much exceeded
In their own way, by all the things that she did.

XI.

Her memory was a mine; she knew by heart
All Calderon and greater part of Lopé,
So that if any actor miss'd his part, [er's copy.
She could have served him for the prompt-
For her Feinagle's were an useless art,†
And he himself obliged to shut up shop—he
Could never make a memory so fine as
That which adorned the brain of Donna Inez.

XII.

Her favorite science was the mathematical,
Her noblest virtue was her magnanimity;
Her wit (she sometimes tired of wit) was Attic all,
Her serious sayings darken'd to sublimity;
In short in all things she was fairly what I call
A prodigy; her morning dress was dimity,
Her evening silk, or, in the summer muslin,
And other stuffs, with which I won't stay puzzling.

XIII.

She knew the Latin—that is, "the Lord's prayer,"
And Greek—the alphabet—I'm nearly sure;
She read some French romances here and there, [pure;
Although her mode of speaking was not
For native Spanish she had no great care,
At least her conversation was obscure; [lem-
Her thoughts were theorems, her words a prob-
As if she deem'd that mystery would ennoble 'em.

XIV.

She liked the English and the Hebrew tongue,
And said there was analogy between 'em;

* "Vixeres fortes ante Agamemnon," etc.—HORACE.

* [Quien no ha visto Sevilla no ha visto maravilla.]

† Professor Feinagle in 1812 gave lectures at the Royal Institution on Mnemonics.

She proved it somehow out of sacred song,
But I must leave the proofs to those who've seen 'em,
But this I heard her say, and can't be wrong,
And all may think which way their judgment's lean 'em,
"'Tis strange—the Hebrew noun which means ['I am,'
The English always use to govern d—n."

XV.

Some women use their tongues—she *look'd* a lecture,
Each eye a sermon, and her brow a homily,
An all-in-all sufficient self-director,
Like the lamented late Sir Samuel Romilly,
The Law's expounder, and the State's corrector,
Whose suicide was almost an anomaly—
One sad example more, that "All is vanity"
(The jury brought their verdict in "Insanity").

XVI.

In short she was a walking calculation,
Miss Edgeworth's novels stepping from their covers,
Or Mrs. Trimmer's books on education,
Or "Cœlebs' Wife" set out in quest of lovers;
Morality's prim personification,
In which not Envy's self a flaw discovers;
To others' share let "female errors fall,"
For she had not even one—the worst of all.

XVII.

Oh! she was perfect, past all parallel—
Of any modern female saint's comparison;
So far above the cunning powers of hell,
Her guardian angel had give up his garri- [son;
Even her minutest motions went as well
As those of the best time-piece made by Harrison.
In virtues nothing earthly could surpass her,
Save thine "incomparable oil," Macassar! *

XVIII.

Perfect she was; but as perfection is
Insipid in this naughty world of ours,
Where our first parents never learn'd to kiss
Till they were exiled from their earlier bowers,
Where all was peace, and innocence and bliss,
(I wonder how they got through the twelve [hours),
Don Jóse, like a lineal son of Eve,
Went plucking various fruit without her leave.

XIX.

He was a mortal of the careless kind,
With no great love for learning or the learn'd,
Who chose to go where'er he had a mind,
And never dream'd his lady was concern'd;
The world, as usual, wickedly inclined
To see a kingdom or a house o'erturn'd;
Whispered he had a mistress, some said *two*,
But for domestic quarrels *one* will do.

XX.

Now Donna Inez had, with all her merit,
A great opinion of her own good qualities;
Neglect, indeed, requires a saint to bear it,
And such, indeed, she was in her moralities:
But then she had a devil of a spirit,
And sometimes mix'd up fancies with realities,
And let few opportunities escape
Of getting her liege lord into a scrape.

XXI.

This was an easy matter with a man
Oft in the wrong, and never on his guard;
And even the wisest, do the best they can,
Have moments, hours, and days, so unprepared, ['lady's fan";
That you might "brain them with their
And sometimes ladies hit exceeding hard,
And fans turn into falchions in fair hands,
And why and wherefore no one understands.

XXII.

'Tis pity learned virgins ever wed
With persons of no sort of education, [bred,
Or gentlemen who, though well-born and
Grow tired of scientific conversation;
I don't choose to say much upon this head,
I'm a plain man, and in a single station;
But—Oh! ye lords of ladies intellectual,
Inform us truly, have they not henpeck'd you all?

XXIII.

Don Jóse and his lady quarrel'd—*why*,
Not any of the many could divine,
Though several thousand people chose to try;
'Twas surely no concern of theirs nor mine;
I loathe that low vice—curiosity;
But if there's anything in which I shine,
'Tis in arranging all my friends' affairs,
Not having, of my own, domestic cares.

XXIV.

And so I interfered, and with the best
Intentions; but their treatment was not kind;
I think the foolish people were possess'd,
For neither of them could I ever find,
Although their porter afterwards confess'd—
But that's no matter, and the worst's behind,
For little Juan o'er me threw, down stairs,
A pail of housemaid's water unawares.

XXV.

A little curly-headed good-for-nothing,
And mischief-making monkey from his birth;
His parents ne'er agreed except in doting
Upon the most unquiet imp on earth:
Instead of quarreling, had they been both in
Their senses, they'd have sent young master forth [home,
To school, or had him soundly whipp'd at
To teach him manners for the time to come.

XXVI.

Don Jóse and the Donna Inez led
For some time an unhappy sort of life,
Wishing each other, not divorced, but dead.
They lived respectably as man and wife;
Their conduct was exceedingly well-bred,
And gave no outward signs of inward strife,

* "Description des 'vertus incomparables' de l'huile Macassar."—See the Advertisement.

Until at length the smother'd fire broke out
And put the business past all kind of doubt.

XXVII.

For Inez called some druggists and physicians,
And tried to prove her loving lord was *mad;*
But as he had some lucid intermissions,
She next decided he was only *bad;*
Yet when they asked her for her depositions,
No sort of explanation could be had,
Save that her duty both to man and God [odd.
Required this conduct—which seem'd very

XXVIII.

She kept a journal, where his faults were noted, [letters,
And opened certain trunks of books and
All which might, if occasion served, be quoted:
And then she had all Seville for abettors,
Besides her good old grandmother (who doted):
The hearers of her case became repeaters,
Then advocates, inquisitors, and judges,
Some for amusement, others for old grudges.

XXIX.

And then this best and meekest woman bore
With such serenity her husband's woes,
Just as the Spartan ladies did of yore,
Who saw their spouses kill'd and nobly chose
Never to say a word about them more—
Calmly she heard each calumny that rose,
And saw *his* agonies with such sublimity,
That all the world exclaim'd, "What magnanimity!"

XXX.

No doubt this patience, when the world is damning us,
Is philosophic in our former friends;
'Tis also pleasant to be deem'd magnanimous,
The more so in obtaining our own ends;
And what the lawyers call a "*malus animus,*"
Conduct like this by no means comprehends:
Revenge in person's certainly no virtue,
But then 'tis not *my* fault if *others* hurt you.

XXXI.

And if our quarrels should rip up old stories,
And help them with a lie or two additional,
I'm not to blame, as you well know—no more is
Any one else—they were become traditional:
Besides, their resurrection aids our glories
By contrast, which is what we just were wishing all:
And science profits by this resurrection—
Dead scandals form good subjects for dissection.

XXXII.

Their friends had tried at reconciliation,
Then their relations, who made matters worse,
('Twere hard to tell upon a like occasion
To whom it may be best to have recourse—
I can't say much for friend or yet relation):
The lawyers did their utmost for divorce,
But scarce a fee was paid on either side,
Before, unluckily, Don Jóse died.

XXXIII.

He died: and most unluckily, because
According to all hints I could collect
From counsel learned in those kind of laws
(Although their talk's obscure and circumspect),
His death contrived to spoil a charming cause:
A thousand pities also with respect
To public feeling, which on this occasion
Was manifested in a great sensation.

XXXIV.

But ah! he died; and buried with him lay
The public feeling and the lawyers' fees:
His house was sold, his servants sent away,
A Jew took one of his two mistresses,
A priest the other—at least so they say:
I ask'd the doctors after his decease—
He died of the slow fever call'd the tertian,
And left his widow to her own aversion.

XXXV.

Yet Jóse was an honorable man;
That I must say, who knew him very well;
Therefore his frailties I'll no further scan,
Indeed, there were not many more to tell;
And if his passions now and then outran
Discretion, and were not so peaceable
As Numa's (who was also named Pompilius),* [bilious.
He had been ill brought up, and was born

XXXVI.

Whate'er might be his worthlessness or worth,
Poor fellow! he had many things to wound him,
Let's own—since it can do no good on earth—
It was a trying moment that which found him
Standing alone beside his desolate hearth,
Where all his household gods lay shiver'd round him:
No choice was left his feelings or his pride,
Save Death, or Doctors' Commons—so he died.

XXXVII.

Dying intestate, Juan was sole heir [lands,
To a Chancery suit, and messuages, and
Which, with a long minority and care,
Promised to turn out well in proper hands:
Inez became sole guardian, which was fair,
And answer'd but to nature's just demands;
An only son left with an only mother,
Is brought up much more wisely than another.

XXXVIII.

Sagest of women, even of widows, she
Resolved that Juan should be quite a paragon:
And worthy of the noblest pedigree

* —"primus qui legibus urbem
Fundabit, Curibus parvis et paupere terra
Missus in imperium magnum."—VIRG.

(His sire was of Castile, his dam from Arra-
Then for accomplishments of chivalry, [gon);
In case our lord the king should go to war again,
He learn'd the arts of riding, fencing, gunnery,
And how to scale a fortress—or a nunnery.

XXXIX.

But that which Donna Inez most desired,
And saw into herself, each day, before all
The learned tutors whom for him she hired,
Was, that his breeding should be strictly moral.
Much into all his studies she inquired,
And so they were submitted first to her, all,
Arts, sciences, no branch was made a mystery
To Juan's eyes, excepting natural history.

XL.

The languages, especially the dead;
The sciences, and most of all the abstruse;
The arts, at least all such as could be said
To be the most remote from common use;
In all these he was much and deeply read;
But not a page of anything that's loose,
Or hints continuation of the species,
Was ever suffer'd, lest he should grow vicious.

XLI.

His classic studies made a little puzzle,
Because of filthy loves of gods and goddesses,
Who in the earlier ages raised a bustle,
But never put on pantaloons or bodices.
His reverend tutors had at times a tussle,
And for their Æneids, Iliads, and Odysseys,
Were forced to make an odd sort of apology,
For Donna Inez dreaded the mythology.

XLII.

Ovid's a rake, as half his verses show him,
Anacreon's morals are a still worse sample,
Catullus scarcely had a decent poem,
I don't think Sappho's Ode a good example,
Although Longinus* tells us there is no hymn
Where the sublime soars forth on wings more ample;
But Virgil's songs are pure, except that horrid one
Beginning with "*Formosum Pastor Corydon.*"

XLIII.

Lucretius' irreligion is too strong
For early stomachs to prove wholesome food;
I can't help thinking Juvenal was wrong,
Although no doubt his real intent was good,
For speaking out so plainly in his song,
So much, indeed, as to be downright rude;
And then what proper person can be partial
To all those nauseous epigrams of Martial?

XLIV.

Juan was taught from out the best edition,
Expurgated by learned men, who place,
Judiciously, from out the schoolboy's vision,
The grosser parts; but fearful to deface
Too much their modest bard by this omission,
And pitying sore his mutilated case,
They only add them all in an appendix,*
Which saves in fact the trouble of an index:

XLV.

For there we have them all "at one fell swoop,"
Instead of being scatter'd through the pages;
They stand forth marshall'd in a handsome troop,
To meet the ingenuous youth of future ages,
Till some less rigid editor shall stoop
To call them back into their separate cages,
Instead of standing staring all together,
Like garden-gods—and not so decent either.

XLVI.

The Missal, too (it was the family Missal),
Was ornamented in a sort of way [all
Which ancient mass-books often are, and this
Kinds of grotesques illumined; and how they,
Who saw those figures on the margin kiss all,
Could turn their optics to the text and pray,
Is more than I know—but Don Juan's mother
Kept this herself, and gave her son another.

XLVII.

Sermons he read, and lectures he endured,
And homilies, and lives of all the saints;
To Jerome and to Chrysostom inured,
He did not take such studies for restraints;
But how faith is acquired, and then ensured,
So well not one of the aforesaid paints
As Saint Augustine in his fine confessions,
Which make the reader envy his transgressions.†

XLVIII.

This, too, was a seal'd book to little Juan—
I can't but say that his mamma was right,
If such an education was the true one.
She scarcely trusted him from out her sight;
Her maids were old, and if she took a new one,
You might be sure she was a perfect fright.
She did this during even her husband's life—
I recommend as much to every wife.

XLIX.

Young Juan wax'd in goodliness and grace;
At six a charming child, and at eleven
With all the promise of as fine a face
As e'er to man's maturer growth was given:
He studied steadily, and grew apace,
And seem'd at last in the right road to heaven,

* See Longinus, Section 10:
"ἵνα μὴ ἓν τι περὶ αὐτὴν πάθος φαίνηται, παθῶν δὲ σύνοδος."

* Fact. There is, or was, such an edition, with all the obnoxious epigrams of Martial placed by themselves at the end.

† See his Confessions. l. i. c. ix. By the representation which Saint Augustine gives of himself in his youth, it is easy to see that he was what we should call a rake. He avoided the school as the plague; he loved nothing but gaming and public shows; he robbed his father of everything he could find; he invented a thousand lies to escape the rod, which they were obliged to make use of to punish his irregularities.

For half his days were pass'd at church, the other
Between his tutors, confessor, and mother.

L.

At six, I said, he was a charming child,
At twelve he was a fine but quiet boy;
Although in infancy a little wild,
They tamed him down amongst them; to de-
His natural spirit not in vain they toil'd. [stroy
At least it seem'd so; and his mother's joy
Was to declare how sage, and still, and steady,
Her young philosopher was grown already.

LI.

I had my doubts, perhaps I have them still,
But what I say is neither here nor there;
I knew his father well, and have some skill
In character—but it would not be fair
From sire to son to augur good or ill:
He and his wife were an ill-sorted pair—
But Scandal's my aversion—I protest
Against all evil-speaking, even in jest.

LII.

For my part I say nothing—nothing—but
This I will say—my reasons are my own—
That if I had an only son to put [none),
To school (as God be praised that I have
'Tis not with Donna Inez I would shut
Him up to learn his catechism alone:
No—no—I'd send him out betimes to college,
For there it was I pick'd up my own knowledge.

LIII.

For there one learns—'tis not for me to boast,
Though I acquired—but I pass over *that*,
As well as all the Greek I since have lost:
I say that there's the place—but "*Verbum sat.*"
I think I pick'd up too, as well as most,
Knowledge of matters—but no matter *what;*
I never married—but I think, I know
That sons should not be educated so.

LIV.

Young Juan now was sixteen years of age,
Tall, handsome, slender, but well knit: he seem'd
Active, though not so sprightly, as a page;
And everybody but his mother deem'd
Him almost man; but she flew in a rage
And bit her lips (for else she might have scream'd)
If any said so, for to be precocious
Was in her eyes a thing the most atrocious.

LV.

Amongst her numerous acquaintance, all
Selected for discretion and devotion,
There was the Donna Julia, whom to call
Pretty were but to give a feeble notion
Of many charms in her as natural
As sweetness to the flower, or salt to ocean,
Her zone to Venus, or his bow to Cupid
(But this last simile is trite and stupid).

LVI.

The darkness of her Oriental eye
Accorded with her Moorish origin;
(Her blood was not all Spanish, by-the-by:
In Spain, you know, this is a sort of sin).
When proud Granada fell, and, forced to fly,
Boabdil wept, of Donna Julia's kin
Some went to Africa, some stay'd in Spain,
Her great-great-grandmamma chose to re-
main.

LVII.

She married (I forget the pedigree)
With an Hidalgo, who transmitted down
His blood less noble than such blood should be;
At such alliances his sires would frown,
In that point so precise in each degree
That they bred *in and in*, as might be shown,
Marrying their cousins—nay, their aunts and nieces,
Which always spoils the breed, if it increases.

LVIII.

This heathenish cross restored the breed again, [flesh;
Ruin'd its blood, but much improved its
For from a root the ugliest in Old Spain
Sprung up a branch as beautiful as fresh:
The sons no more were short, the daughters plain. [hush,
But there's a rumor which I fain would
'Tis said that Donna Julia's grandmamma
Produced her Don more heirs at love than law.

LIX.

However this might be, the race went on
Improving still through every generation,
Until it centred in an only son,
Who left an only daughter: my narration
May have suggested that this single one
Could be but Julia (whom on this occasion
I shall have much to speak about), and she
Was married, charming, chaste, and twenty-three.

LX.

Her eye (I'm very fond of handsome eyes)
Was large and dark, suppressing half its fire
Until she spoke, then through its soft disguise
Flash'd an expression more of pride than ire,
And love than either; and there would arise
A something in them which was not desire,
But would have been, perhaps, but for the soul
Which struggled through and chasten'd down the whole.

LXI.

Her glossy hair was cluster'd o'er a brow
Bright with intelligence, and fair and smooth;
Her eyebrow's shape was like the aerial bow.
Her cheek all purple with the beam of youth,
Mounting at times to a transparent glow,
As if her veins ran lightning: she, in sooth,
Possess'd an air and grace by no means com-
mon;
Her stature tall—I hate a dumpy woman.

LXII.

Wedded she was some years, and to a man
Of fifty, and such husbands are in plenty;
And yet, I think, instead of such a ONE,
'Twere better to have two of five-and-twenty,
Especially in countries near the sun,
And now I think on't, "mi vien in mente,"
Ladies even of the most uneasy virtue
Prefer a spouse whose age is short of thirty.

LXIII.

'Tis a sad thing, I cannot choose but say,
And all the fault of that indecent sun,
Who cannot leave alone our helpless clay,
But will keep baking, broiling, burning on,
That howsoever people fast and pray,
The flesh is frail, and so the soul undone:
What men call gallantry, and gods adultery,
Is much more common where the climate's sultry.

LXIV.

Happy the nations of the moral North!
Where all is virtue, and the winter season
Sends sin, without a rag on, shivering forth
('Twas snow that brought St. Anthony to reason); *
Where juries cast up what a wife is worth, [on
By laying whate'er sum, in mulct, they please
The lover, who must pay a handsome price,
Because it is a marketable vice.

LXV.

Alfonso was the name of Julia's lord,
A man well looking for his years, and who
Was neither much beloved, nor yet abhorr'd:
They lived together as most people do,
Suffering each other's foibles by accord,
And not exactly either *one* or *two;*
Yet he was jealous, though he did not show it,
For jealousy dislikes the world to know it.

LXVI.

Julia was—yet I never could see why—
With Donna Inez quite a favorite friend;
Between their tastes there was small sym-
For not a line had Julia ever penn'd; [pathy,
Some people whisper (but no doubt they lie,
For malice still imputes some private end)
That Inez had, ere Don Alfonso's marriage,
Forgot with him her very prudent carriage;

LXVII.

And that, still keeping up the old connection,
Which time had lately rendered much more
She took his lady also in affection, [chaste,
And certainly this course was much the best.
She flatter'd Julia with her sage protection,
And complimented Don Alfonso's taste:
And if she could not (who can?) silence scan-
At least she left it a more slender handle. [dal,

LXVIII.

I can't tell whether Julia saw the affair
With other people's eyes, or if her own
Discoveries made, but none could be aware
Of this, at least no symptoms e'er were shown:
Perhaps she did not know, or did not care,
Indifferent from the first, or callous grown;
I'm really puzzled what to think or say,
She kept her counsel in so close a way.

LXIX.

Juan she saw, and, as a pretty child,
Caress'd him often—such a thing might be
Quite innocently done, and harmless styled,
When she had twenty years, and thirteen
But I am not so sure I should have smiled [he;
When he was sixteen, Julia twenty-three:
These few short years make wondrous altera-
Particularly amongst sunburnt nations. [tions,

LXX.

Whate'er the cause might be, they had become
Changed; for the dame grew distant, the
youth shy, [dumb,
Their looks cast down, their greetings almost
And much embarrassment in either eye:
There surely will be little doubt with some
That Donna Julia knew the reason why;
But as for Juan, he had no more notion
Than he who never saw the sea or ocean.

LXXI.

Yet Julia's very coldness still was kind,
And tremulously gentle her small hand
Withdrew itself from his, but left behind
A little pressure, thrilling, and so bland,
And slight, so very slight, that to the mind
'Twas but a doubt; but ne'er magician's
wand
Wrought change with all Armida's fairy art
Like what this light touch left on Juan's heart.

LXXII.

And if she met him, though she smiled no
more,
She look'd a sadness sweeter than her smile,
As if her heart had deeper thoughts in store
She must not own, but cherish'd more the
while
For that compression, in its burning core:
Even innocence itself has many a wile,
And will not dare to trust itself with truth,
And love is taught hypocrisy from youth.

LXXIII.

But passion most dissembles, yet betrays
Even by its darkness: as the blackest sky
Foretells the heaviest tempest, it displays
Its workings through the vainly guarded
And in whatever aspect it arrays [eye,
Itself, 'tis still the same hypocrisy.
Coldness or anger, even disdain or hate,
Are masks it often wears, and still too late.

LXXIV.

Then there were sighs, the deeper for sup-
pression,

* For the particulars of St. Anthony's recipe for hot blood in cold weather, see Mr. Alban Butler's "Lives of the Saints."

And stolen glances, sweeter for the theft,
And burning blushes, though for no transgression, [when left;
Tremblings when met, and restlessness
All these little preludes to possession,
Of which young passion cannot be bereft,
And merely tend to show how greatly love is
Embarrass'd at first starting with a novice.

LXXV.

Poor Julia's heart was in an awkward state;
She felt it going, and resolved to make
The noblest efforts for herself and mate,
For honor's, pride's, religion's, virtue's sake:
Her resolutions were most truly great, [quake;
And almost might have made a Tarquin
She pray'd the Virgin Mary for her grace,
As being the best judge of a lady's case.

LXXVI.

She vow'd she never would see Juan more,
And next day paid a visit to his mother,
And look'd extremely at the opening door,
Which, by the Virgin's grace, let in another;
Grateful she was, and yet a little sore—
Again it opens, it can be no other;
'Tis surely Juan now—No! I'm afraid
That night the Virgin was no further pray'd.

LXXVII.

She now determined, that a virtuous woman
Should rather face and overcome temptation,
That flight was base and dastardly, and no man [tion;
Should ever give her heart the least sensa-
That is to say, a thought beyond the common
Preference, that we must feel upon occasion,
For people who are pleasanter than others,
But then they only seem so many brothers.

LXXVIII.

And even if by chance—and who can tell?
The devil's so very sly—she should discover
That all within was not so very well,
And, if still free, that such or such a lover
Might please perhaps, a virtuous wife can quell
Such thoughts, and be the better when they're over;
And if the man should ask, 'tis but denial;
I recommend young ladies to make trial.

LXXIX.

And then there are such things as love divine,
Bright and immaculate, unmix'd and pure,
Such as the angels think so very fine,
And matrons, who would be no less secure,
Platonic, perfect, "just such love as mine":
Thus Julia said—and thought so, to be sure;
And so I'd have her think, were I the man
On whom her reveries celestial ran.

LXXX.

Such love is innocent, and may exist
Between young persons without danger:
A hand may first, and then a lip, be kiss'd;
For my part, to such doings I'm a stranger,
But *here* these freedoms form the utmost list
Of all o'er which such love may be a ranger;
If people go beyond, 'tis quite a crime.
But not my fault—I tell them all in time.

LXXXI.

Love, then, but love within its proper limits,
Was Julia's innocent determination
In young Don Juan's favor, and to him its
Exertion might be useful on occasion;
And, lighted at too pure a shrine to dim its
Ethereal lustre, with what sweet persuasion
He might be taught by love and her together—
I really don't know what, nor Julia either.

LXXXII.

Fraught with this fine intention, and well
In mail of proof—her purity of soul, [fenced
She, for the future, of her strength convinced,
And that her honor was a rock or mole,
Exceeding sagely from that hour dispensed
With any kind of troublesome control;
But whether Julia to the task was equal
Is that which must be mentioned in the sequel.

LXXXIII.

Her plan she deem'd both innocent and feas-
And surely, with a stripling of sixteen, [ible;
Not scandal's fangs could fix on much that's
Or if they did so, satisfied to mean [seizable,
Nothing but what was good, her breast was peaceable—
A quiet conscience makes one so serene!
Christians have burnt each other, quite persuaded [did.
That all the Apostles would have done as they

LXXXIV.

And if in the mean time her husband died;
But Heaven forbid that such a thought should cross [sigh'd,)
Her brain, though in a dream! (and then she
Never could she survive that common loss;
But just suppose that moment should betide,
I only say suppose it—*inter nos.*
(This should be *entre nous*, for Julia thought
In French, but then the rhyme would go for nought.)

LXXXV.

I only say, suppose this supposition:
Juan being then grown up to man's estate
Would fully suit a widow of condition; [late;
Even seven years hence it would not be too
And in the interim (to pursue this vision),
The mischief, after all, could not be great,
For he would learn the rudiments of love,
I mean the seraph way of those above.

LXXXVI.

So much for Julia. Now we'll turn to Juan.
Poor little fellow! he had no idea
Of his own case, and never hit the true one:
In feelings quick, as Ovid's Miss Medea,*

* Ovid, "de Art Amand.," I–II.

He puzzled over what he found a new one,
But not as yet imagined it could be a
Thing quite in course, and not at all alarming,
Which, with a little patience, might grow charming.

LXXXVII.

Silent and pensive, idle, restless, slow,
His home deserted for the lonely wood,
Tormented with a wound he could not know,
His, like all deep grief, plunged in solitude:
I'm fond myself of solitude or so,
But then I beg it may be understood,
By solitude I mean a sultan's, not
A hermit's, with a harem for a grot.

LXXXVIII.

"Oh Love! in such a wilderness as this,
Where transport and security entwine,
Here is the empire of thy perfect bliss,
And here thou art a god indeed divine." *
The bard I quote from does not sing amiss,
With the exception of the second line, [ity"
For that same twining "transport and secur-
Are twisted to a phrase of some obscurity.

LXXXIX.

The poet meant, no doubt, and thus appeals
To the good sense and senses of mankind,
The very thing which everybody feels,
As all have found on trial, or may find,
That no one likes to be disturb'd at meals
Or love.—I won't say more about "entwined",
Or "transport," as we knew all that before,
But beg "Security" will bolt the door.

XC.

Young Juan wander'd by the glassy brooks,
Thinking unutterable things: he threw
Himself at length within the leafy nooks
Where the wild branch of the cork forest grew;
There poets find materials for their books,
And every now and then we read them through,
So that their plan and prosody are eligible,
Unless, like Wordsworth, they prove unintelligible.

XCI.

He, Juan (and not Wordsworth) so pursued
His self-communion with his own high soul
Until his mighty heart, in its great mood,
Had mitigated part, though not the whole
Of its disease: he did the best he could
With things not very subject to control,
And turn'd, without perceiving his condition,
Like Coleridge, into a metaphysician.

XCII.

He thought about himself, and the whole earth,
Of man the wonderful, and of the stars,
And how the deuce they ever could have birth;
And then he thought of earthquakes and of wars,
How many miles the moon might have in girth,
Of air-balloons, and of the many bars
To perfect knowledge of the boundless skies;—
And then he thought of Donna Julia's eyes.

XCIII.

In thoughts like these true wisdom may discern
Longings sublime, and aspirations high,
Which some are born with, but the most part learn
To plague themselves withal, they know not why:
'Twas strange that one so young should thus concern
His brain about the action of the sky:
If *you* think 'twas philosophy that this did,
I can't help thinking puberty assisted.

XCIV.

He pored upon the leaves, and on the flowers,
And heard a voice in all the winds, and then
He thought of wood-nymphs and immortal bowers,
And how the goddesses came down to men.
He miss'd the pathway, he forgot the hours,
And when he look'd upon his watch again,
He found how much old Time had been a winner;
He also found that he had lost his dinner.

XCV.

Sometimes he turn'd to gaze upon his book,
Boscan, or Garcillasso*:—by the wind
Even as the page is rustled while we look,
So by the poesy of his own mind
Over the mystic leaf his soul was shook,
As if 'twere one whereon magicians bind
Their spells, and give them to the passing gale,
According to some good old woman's tale.

XCVI.

Thus would he while his lonely hours away,
Dissatisfied, nor knowing what he wanted;
Nor glowing reverie, nor poet's lay,
Could yield his spirit that for which it panted,
A bosom whereon he his head might lay,
And hear the heart beat with the love it granted;
With——several other things which I forget,
Or which, at least, I need not mention yet.

XCVII.

Those lonely walks and lengthening reveries
Could not escape the gentle Julia's eyes;
She saw that Juan was not at his ease;
But that which chiefly may, and must surprise,
Is, that the Donna Inez did not tease
Her only son with question or surmise:
Whether it was she did not see, or would not,
Or, like all very clever people, could not.

* Campbell's "Gertrude of Wyoming," I think the opening of Canto II., but quote from memory.

* Spanish poets.

XCVIII.

This may seem strange, but yet 'tis very common;
For instance—gentlemen, whose ladies take
Leave to o'erstep the written rights of woman,
And break the——Which commandment is't they break?
(I have forgot the number, and think no man
Should rashly quote for fear of a mistake.)
I say when these same gentlemen are jealous,
They make some blunder, which their ladies tell us.

XCIX.

A real husband always is suspicious,
But still no less suspects in the wrong place;
Jealous of some one who had no such wishes,
Or pandering blindly to his own disgrace,
By harboring some dear friend extremely vicious:
The last indeed's infallibly the case:
And when the spouse and friend are gone off wholly,
He wonders at their vice, and not his folly.

C.

Thus parents also are at times short-sighted;
Though watchful as the lynx, they ne'er discover,
The while the wicked world beholds, delighted,
Young Hopeful's mistress, or Miss Fanny's lover,
Till some confounded escapade has blighted
The plan of twenty years, and all is over;
And then the mother cries, the father swears,
And wonders why the devil he got heirs.

CI.

But Inez was so anxious, and so clear
Of sight, that I must think, on this occasion
She had some other motive much more near,
For leaving Juan to this new temptation;
But what that motive was, I shan't say here;
Perhaps to finish Juan's education,
Perhaps to open Don Alfonso's eyes,
In case he thought his wife too great a prize.

CII.

It was upon a day, a summer's day;—
Summer's indeed a very dangerous season,
And so is spring, about the end of May:
The sun no doubt is the prevailing reason;
But whatsoe'er the cause is, one may say,
And stand convicted of more truth than treason,
That there are months which nature grows more merry in—
March has its hares, and May must have its heroine.

CIII.

'Twas on a summer's day—the sixth of June:
I like to be particular in dates,
Not only of the age and year, but moon:
They are a sort of post-house, where the Fates
Change horses, making history change its tune,
Then spur away o'er empires and o'er states
Leaving at last not much besides chronology,
Excepting the post-obits of theology.

CIV.

'Twas on the sixth of June, about the hour
Of half-past six—perhaps still nearer seven—
When Julia sate within as pretty a bower
As e'er held houri in that heathenish heaven
Described by Mahomet, and Anacreon Moore
To whom the lyre and laurels have been given,
With all the trophies of triumphant song—
He won them well, and may he wear them long!

CV.

She sate, but not alone; I know not well
How this same interview had taken place,
And even if I knew, I should not tell—
People should hold their tongues in any case;
No matter how or why the thing befell,
But there was she and Juan, face to face—
When two such faces are so, 'twould be wise,
But very difficult, to shut their eyes.

CVI.

How beautiful she look'd! her conscious heart
Glow'd in her cheek, and yet she felt no wrong.
O Love! how perfect is thy mystic art,
Strengthening the weak, and trampling on the strong!
How self-deceitful is the sagest part
Of mortals whom thy lure hath led along—
The precipice she stood on was immense,
So was her creed in her own innocence.

CVII.

She thought of her own strength and Juan's too
And of the folly of all prudish fears,
Victorious virtue, and domestic truth,
And then of Don Alfonso's fifty years:
I wish these last had not occurr'd, in sooth,
Because that number rarely much endears,
And through all climes, the snowy and the sunny,
Sounds ill in love, whate'er it may in money.

CVIII.

When people say, "I've told you *fifty* times,"
They mean to scold, and very often do;
When poets say, "I've written *fifty* rhymes,"
They make you dread that they'll recite them too;
In gangs of *fifty*, thieves commit their crimes;
At *fifty*, love for love is rare, 'tis true:
But then, no doubt, it equally as true is
A good deal may be bought for *fifty* louis.

CIX.

Julia had honor, virtue, truth, and love
For Don Alfonso; and she inly swore,
By all the vows below to powers above,
She never would disgrace the ring she wore,
Nor have a wish which wisdom might reprove;

And while she ponder'd this, besides much more,
One hand on Juan's carelessly was thrown,
Quite by mistake—she thought it was her own.

CX.

Unconsciously, she lean'd upon the other,
Which play'd within the tangles of her hair;
And to contend with thoughts she could not smother,
She seem'd, by the distraction of her air.
'Twas surely very wrong in Juan's mother
To leave together this imprudent pair: [so;
She who for many years had watch'd her son
I'm very certain *mine* would not have done so.

CXI.

The hand which still held Juan's, by degrees
Gently, but palpably, confirm'd its grasp,
As if it said, "Detain me, if you please";
Yet there's no doubt she only meant to clasp
His fingers with a pure Platonic squeeze; [asp,
She would have shrunk as from a toad, or
Had she imagined such a thing could rouse
A feeling dangerous to a prudent spouse.

CXII.

I cannot know what Juan thought of this,
But what he did is much what you would do;
His young lip thank'd it with a grateful kiss,
And then, abash'd at its own joy, withdrew
In deep despair, lest he had done amiss,
Love is so very timid when 'tis new:
She blush'd and frown'd not, but she strove to speak, [weak.
And held her tongue, her voice was grown so

CXIII.

The sun set, and up rose the yellow moon:
The devil's in the moon for mischief; they
Who call'd her *chaste*, methinks began too soon
Their nomenclature; there is not a day,
The longest, not the twenty-first of June,
Sees half the business in a wicked way
On which three single hours of moonshine smile—
And then she looks so modest all the while.

CXIV.

There is a dangerous silence in that hour,
A stillness which leaves room for the full
To open all itself, without the power [soul
Of calling wholly back its self-control;
The silver light which, hallowing tree and tower, [whole,
Sheds beauty and deep softness o'er the
Breathes also to the heart, and o'er it throws
A loving languor, which is not repose.

CXV.

And Julia sate with Juan, half embraced,
And half retiring from the glowing arm,
Which trembled like the bosom where 'twas placed: [harm,
Yet still she must have thought there was no
Or else 'twere easy to withdraw her waist;
But then the situation had its charm,
And then—God knows what next—I can't go on:
I'm almost sorry that I e'er begun.

CXVI.

O Plato! Plato! you have paved the way,
With your confounded fantasies, to more
Immoral conduct, by the fancied sway
Your system feigns o'er the controlless core
Of human hearts, than all the long array
Of poets and romancers:—You're a bore,
A charlatan, a coxcomb—and have been,
At best, no better than a go-between.

CXVII.

And Julia's voice was lost, except in sighs,
Until too late for useful conversation;
The tears were gushing from her gentle eyes,
I wish, indeed, they had not had occasion:
But who, alas, can love, and then be wise?
Not that remorse did not oppose temptation:
A little still she strove, and much repented,
And whispering "I will ne'er consent"—consented.

CXVIII.

'Tis said that Xerxes offer'd a reward [sure;
To those who could invent him a new plea-
Methinks the requisition's rather hard,
And must have cost his majesty a treasure:
For my part, I'm a moderate-minded bard,
Fond of a little love (which I call leisure):
I care not for new pleasures, as the old
Are quite enough for me, so they but hold.

CXIX.

O pleasure! you're indeed a pleasant thing,
Although one must be damn'd for you, no doubt:
I make a resolution every spring, [doubt:
Of reformation ere the year run out;
But somehow this my vestal vow takes wing,
Yet still, I trust, it may be kept throughout;
I'm very sorry, very much ashamed,
And mean next winter to be quite reclaim'd.

CXX.

Here my chaste muse a liberty must take—
Start not, still chaster reader—she'll be nice hence.
Forward, and there is no great cause to quake:
This liberty is a poetic license,
Which some irregularity may make
In the design: and as I have a high sense
Of Aristotle and the Rules, 'tis fit
To beg his pardon when I err a bit.

CXXI.

This license is to hope the reader will
Suppose from June the sixth (the fatal day,
Without whose epoch my poetic skill,
For want of facts, would all be thrown away),
But keeping Julia and Don Juan still
In sight, that several months have pass'd; we'll say
'Twas in November, but I'm not so sure
About the day—the era's more obscure.

CXXII.

We'll talk of that anon.—'Tis sweet to hear,
At midnight on the blue and moonlit deep,
The song and oar of Adria's gondolier,
By distance mellow'd, o'er the waters sweep:
'Tis sweet to see the evening star appear;
'Tis sweet to listen as the night-winds creep
From leaf to leaf; tis sweet to view on high
The rainbow, based on ocean, span the sky.

CXXIII.

'Tis sweet to hear the watch-dog's honest bark
Bay deep-mouth'd welcome as we draw near home;
'Tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark
Our coming, and look brighter when we come;
'Tis sweet to be awaken'd by the lark,
Or lull'd by falling waters; sweet the hum
Of bees, the voice of girls, the song of birds,
The lisp of children, and their earliest words.

CXXIV.

Sweet is the vintage, when the showering grapes
In Bacchanal profusion reel to earth,
Purple and gushing: sweet are our escapes
From civic revelry to rural mirth;
Sweet to the miser are his glittering heaps;
Sweet to the father is his first-born's birth;
Sweet is revenge—especially to women,
Pillage to soldiers, prize-money to seamen.

CXXV.

Sweet is a legacy, and passing sweet
The unexpected death of some old lady
Or gentleman of seventy years complete,
Who've made "us youth" wait too—too long already
For an estate, or cash, or country-seat,
Still breaking, but with stamina so steady,
That all the Israelites are fit to mob its obits.
Next owner for their double-damn'd post-

CXXVI.

'Tis sweet to win, no matter how, one's laurels,
By blood or ink; 'tis sweet to put an end
To strife: 'tis sometimes sweet to have our quarrels,
Particularly with a tiresome friend:
Sweet is old wine in bottles, ale in barrels;
Dear is the helpless creature we defend
Against the world: and dear the schoolboy spot
We ne'er forget, though there we are forgot.

CXXVII.

But sweeter still than this, than these, than all,
Is first and passionate love—it stands alone,
Like Adam's recollection of his fall:
The tree of knowledge has been pluck'd, all's known—
And life yields nothing further to recall,
Worthy of this ambrosial sin, so shown,
No doubt in fable, as the unforgiven
Fire which Prometheus filch'd for us from heaven.

CXXVIII.

Man's a strange animal, and makes strange use
Of his own nature, and the various arts,
And likes particularly to produce
Some new experiment to show his parts;
This is the age of oddities let loose,
Where different talents find their different marts:
You'd best begin with truth, and when you've lost your
Labor, there's a sure market for imposture.

CXXIX.

What opposite discoveries we have seen!
(Signs of true genius and of empty pockets:)
One makes new noses, one a guillotine,
One breaks your bones, one sets them in their sockets;
But vaccination certainly has been
A kind antithesis to Congreve's rockets,
With which the doctor paid off an old pox,
By borrowing a new one from an ox.

CXXX.

Bread has been made (indifferent) from potatoes,
And galvanism has set some corpses grinning,
But has not answer'd like the apparatus
Of the Humane Society's beginning,
By which men are unsuffocated gratis:
What wondrous new machines have late been spinning!
I said the small-pox has gone out of late,
Perhaps it may be followed by the great.

CXXXI.

'Tis said the great came from America;
Perhaps it may set out on its return,—
The population there so spreads, they say
'Tis grown high time to thin it in its turn,
With war, or plague, or famine, any way,
So that civilization they may learn;
And which in ravage the more loathsome evil
Their real lues, or our pseudo-syphilis? [is—

CXXXII.

This is the patent age of new inventions
For killing bodies, and for saving souls,
All propagated with the best intentions;
Sir Humphrey Davy's lantern, by which coals
Are safely mined for in the mode he mentions,
Timbuctoo travels, voyages to the Poles,
Are ways to benefit mankind, as true,
Perhaps, as shooting them at Waterloo.

CXXXIII.

Man's a phenomenon, one knows not what,
And wonderful beyond all wondrous measure;
'Tis pity though, in this sublime world, that
Pleasure's a sin, and sometimes sin's a pleasure;
Few mortals know what end they would be at,
But whether glory, power, or love, or treasure,
The path is through perplexing ways, and when
The goal is gain'd, we die, you know—and then——

CXXXIV.

What then?—I do not know, no more do you—
And so good-night.—Return we to our story:
'Twas in November, when fine days are few,

And the far mountains wax a little hoary,
And clap a white cape on their mantles blue;
And the sea dashes round the promontory,
And the loud breaker boils against the rock,
And sober suns must set at five o'clock.

CXXXV.

'Twas, as the watchmen say, a cloudy night;
No moon, no stars, the wind was low or loud
By gusts, and many a sparkling hearth was bright [crowd:
With the piled wood, round which the family
There's something cheerful in that sort of light,
Even as a summer sky's without a cloud:
I'm fond of fire, and crickets, and all that,
A lobster salad, and champagne, and chat.

CXXXVI.

'Twas midnight—Donna Julia was in bed,
Sleeping, most probably,—when at her door
Arose a clatter might awake the dead,
If they had never been awoke before;
And that they have been so, we all have read,
And are to be so, at the least, once more;
The door was fasten'd, but with voice and fist
First knocks were heard, then "Madam—madam—hist!

CXXXVII.

"For God's sake, Madam—Madam—here's my master,
With more than half the city at his back—
Was ever heard of such a curst disaster!
'Tis not my fault—I kept good watch—Alack!
Do pray undo the bolt a little faster—
They're on the stair just now, and in a crack
Will all be here; perhaps he yet may fly—
Surely the window's not so *very* high!"

CXXXVIII.

By this time Don Alfonso was arrived,
With torches, friends and servants in great number;
The major part of them had long been wived,
And therefore paused not to disturb the slumber
Of any wicked woman, who contrived
By stealth her husband's temples to encumber:
Examples of this kind are so contagious,
Were *one* not punish'd, *all* would be outrageous.

CXXXIX.

I can't tell how, or why, or what suspicion
Could enter into Don Alfonso's head;
But for a cavalier of his condition
It surely was exceedingly ill-bred,
Without a word of previous admonition,
To hold a levée round his lady's bed,
And summon lackeys, arm'd with fire and sword,
To prove himself the thing he most abhorr'd.

CXL.

Poor Donna Julia! starting as from sleep
(Mind—that I do not say—she had not slept),
Began at once to scream, and yawn, and weep;
Her maid Antonio, who was an adept,
Contrived to fling the bed-clothes in a heap,
As if she had just now from out them crept:
I can't tell why she should take all this trouble
To prove her mistress had been sleeping double.

CXLI.

But Julia mistress, and Antonia maid,
Appear'd like two harmless women, who
Of goblins, but still more of men, afraid, [two,
Had thought one man might be deterr'd by
And therefore side by side were gently laid,
Until the hours of absence should run through,
And truant husband should return and say,
"My dear, I was the first who came away."

CXLII.

Now Julia found at length a voice, and cried,
"In heaven's name, Don Alfonso, what d'ye mean? [died
Has madness seized you? Would that I had
Ere such a monster's victim I had been!
What may this midnight violence betide?
A sudden fit of drunkenness or spleen? [kill?
Dare you suspect me, when the thought would
Search, then, the room!"—Alfonso said, "I will."

CXLIII.

He search'd, *they* search'd, and rummaged everywhere, [seat,
Closet and clothes-press, chest, and window-
And found much linen, lace, and several pair
Of stockings, slippers, brushes, combs, com-
With other articles of ladies fair, [plete,
To keep them beautiful, or leave them neat;
Arras they prick'd and curtains with their swords, [boards.
And wounded several shutters and some

CXLIV.

Under the bed they search'd, and there they found— [sought;
No matter what—it was not that they
They open'd windows, gazing if the ground
Had signs of footmarks, but the earth said nought;
And then they stared each other's faces round:
'Tis odd, not one of all these seekers thought,
And seems to me almost a sort of blunder,
Of looking *in* the bed as well as under.

CXLV.

During this inquisition, Julia's tongue
Was not asleep—"Yes, search and search," she cried,
"Insult on insult heap, and wrong on wrong!
It was for this that I became a bride!
For this in silence I have suffer'd long

A husband like Alfonso at my side:
But now I'll bear no more, nor here remain,
If there be law or lawyers in all Spain.

CXLVI.

"Yes, Don Alfonso! husband now no more,
If ever you indeed deserved the name,
Is't worthy of your years? you have three-score—
Fifty, or sixty, it is all the same—
Is't wise or fitting, causeless to explore
For facts against a virtuous woman's fame?
Ungrateful, perjured, barbarous Don Alfonso,
How dare you think your lady would go on so?

CXLVII.

"Is it for this I have disdain'd to hold
The common privileges of my sex?
That I have chosen a confessor so old
And deaf, that any other it would vex,
And never once he has had cause to scold,
But found my very innocence perplex
So much, he always doubted I was married—
How sorry you will be when I've miscarried!

CXLVIII.

"Was it for this that no Cortejo e'er
I yet have chosen from out the youth of Seville?
Is it for this I scarce went anywhere,
Except to bull-fights, mass, play, rout, and
Is it for this, whate'er my suitors were, [revel?
I favor'd none—nay, was almost uncivil?
Is it for this that General Count O'Reilly,
Who took Algiers, declares I used him vilely? *

CXLIX.

"Did not the Italian Musico Cazzani
Sing at my heart six months at least in vain?
Did not his countryman, Count Corniani,
Call me the only virtuous wife in Spain?
Were there not also Russians, English, many?
The Count Strongstroganoff I put in pain,
And Lord Mount Coffeehouse, the Irish peer,
Who kill'd himself for love (with wine) last year.

CL.

"Have I not had two bishops at my feet?
The Duke of Ichar, and Don Fernan Nunez;
And is it thus a faithful wife you treat?
I wonder in what quarter now the moon is:
I praise your vast forbearance not to beat
Me also, since the time so opportune is—
Oh, valiant man! with sword drawn and cock'd trigger,
Now, tell me, don't you cut a pretty figure?

CLI.

"Was it for this you took your sudden journey,
Under pretence of business indispensable,
With that sublime of rascals, your attorney,
Whom I see standing there, and looking sensible
Of having play'd the fool! Though both I spurn, he [sensible,
Deserves the worst: his conduct's less de-
Because, no doubt, 'twas for his dirty fee,
And not for any love to you nor me.

CLII.

"If he comes here to take a deposition,
By all means let the gentleman proceed:
You've made the apartment in a fit condition:
There's pen and ink for you, sir, when you need—
Let everything be noted with precision,
I would not you for nothing should be fee'd—
But, as my maid's undrest, pray turn your spies out." [eyes out."
"Oh!" sobb'd Antonia, "I could tear their

CLIII.

"There is the closet, there the toilet, there
The antechamber—search them under, over;
There is the sofa, there the great arm-chair,
The chimney—which would really hold a lover.
I wish to sleep, and beg you will take care
And make no further noise, till you discover
The secret cavern of this lurking treasure;
And when 'tis found, let me, too, have that pleasure.

CLIV.

"And now, Hidalgo! now that you have
Doubt upon me, confusion over all, [thrown
Pray have the courtesy to make it known
Who is the man you search for? how d'ye call [shown
Him? what's his lineage? let him but be
I hope he's young and handsome—is he tall?
Tell me; and be assured that, since you stain
My honor thus, it shall not be in vain.

CLV.

"At least, perhaps, he is not sixty years,
At that age he would be too old for slaughter,
Or for so young a husband's jealous fears—
(Antonia! let me have a glass of water.)
I am ashamed of having shed these tears,
They are unworthy of my father's daughter;
My mother dream'd not, in my natal hour,
That I should fall into a monster's power.

CLVI.

"Perhaps 'tis of Antonia you are jealous:
You saw that she was sleeping by my side,
When you broke in upon us with your fellows:
Look where you please—we've nothing, sir, to hide;
Only another time, I trust, you'll tell us,
Or for the sake of decency abide
A moment at the door, that we may be
Drest to receive so much good company.

CLVII.

"And now, sir, I have done, and say no more,
The little I have said may serve to show
The guileless heart in silence may grieve o'er

* Donna Julia has made a mistake. Count O'Reilly did not take Algiers, but Algiers very nearly took him: he and his army and fleet retreated with great loss, and not much credit, from before that city, in the year 1775.

The wrongs to whose exposure it is slow—
I leave you to your conscience as before,
'Twill one day ask you *why* you used me so.
God grant you feel not then the bitterest grief!
Antonia! where's my pocket-handkerchief?"

CLVIII.

She ceased, and turn'd upon her pillow; pale
She lay, her dark eyes flashing through their tears,
Like skies that rain and lighten; as a veil,
Waved and o'ershadowing her wan cheek, appears [fail,
Her streaming hair: the black curls strive, but
To hide the glossy shoulder, which uprears
Its snow through all; her soft lips lie apart,
And louder than her breathing beats her heart.

CLIX.

The Señor Don Alfonso stood confused;
Antonia bustled round the ransack'd room,
And turning up her nose, with looks abused
Her master and his myrmidons, of whom
Not one, except the attorney, was amused:
He, like Achates, faithful to the tomb,
So there were quarrels, cared not for the cause,
Knowing they must be settled by the laws.

CLX.

With prying snub-nose and small eyes he stood, [there,
Following Antonia's motions here and
With much suspicion in his attitude.
For reputations he had little care;
So that a suit or action were made good,
Small pity had he for the young and fair;
And ne'er believ'd in negatives, till these
Were proved by competent false witnesses.

CLXI.

But Don Alfonso stood with downcast looks,
And, truth to say, he made a foolish figure;
When, after searching in five hundred nooks,
And treating a young wife with so much rigor
He gain'd no point except some self-rebukes,
Added to those his lady with such vigor
Had pour'd upon him for the last half-hour,
Quick, thick, and heavy as a thunder-shower.

CLXII.

At first he tried to hammer an excuse,
To which the sole reply was tears and sobs,
And indications of hysterics, whose [throbs,
Prologue is always certain throes, and
Gasps, and whatever else the owners choose:
Alfonso saw his wife, and thought of Job's;
He saw, too, in perspective, her relations,
And then he tried to muster all his patience.

CLXIII.

He stood in act to speak, or rather stammer,
But sage Antonia cut him short before
The anvil of his speech received the hammer,
With, "Pray, sir, leave the room, and say no more, [her,"
Or madam dies."—Alfonso mutter'd "D—n

But nothing else—the time of words was
He cast a rueful look or two, and did, [o'er;
He knew not wherefore, that which he was bid.

CLXIV.

With him retired his "*posse comitatus*,"
The attorney last, who linger'd near the door
Reluctantly, still tarrying there as late as
Antonia let him—not a little sore
At this most strange and unexplain'd "*hiatus*"
In Don Alfonso's facts, which just now wore
An awkward look; as he revolved the case,
The door was fasten'd in his legal face.

CLXV.

No sooner was it bolted than—Oh shame!
Oh sin! Oh sorrow! and Oh womankind!
How can you do such things and keep your fame,
Unless this world, and t'other too, be blind?
Nothing so dear as an unfilch'd good name!
But to proceed—for there is more behind;
With much heartfelt reluctance be it said, [bed.
Young Juan slipp'd, half-smother'd, from the

CLXVI.

He had been hid—I don't pretend to say
How, nor can I indeed describe the where—
Young, slender, and pack'd easily, he lay,
No doubt, in little compass, round or square;
But pity him I neither must nor may
His suffocation by that pretty pair:
'Twere better, sure, to die so, than be shut
With maudlin Clarence in his Malmsey butt.

CLXVII.

And, secondly, I pity not, because
He had no business to commit a sin,
Forbid by heavenly, fined by human, laws,
At least 'twas rather early to begin;
But at sixteen the conscience rarely gnaws
So much as when we call our old debts in
At sixty years, and draw the accompts of evil,
And find a deuced balance with the devil.

CLXVIII.

Of his position I can give no notion;
'Tis written in the Hebrew Chronicle,
How the physicians, leaving pill and potion,
Prescribed by way of blister, a young belle,
When old King David's blood grew dull in motion,
And that the medicine answer'd very well:
Perhaps 'twas in a different way applied,
For David lived, but Juan nearly died.

CLXIX.

What's to be done? Alfonso will be back
The moment he has sent his fools away.
Antonia's skill was put upon the rack,
But no device could be brought into play.
And how to parry the renew'd attack?
Besides, it wanted but few hours of day:
Antonia puzzled; Julia did not speak,
But press'd her bloodless lip to Juan's cheek.

CLXX.

He turn'd his lip to hers, and with his hand
Call'd back the tangles of her wandering hair; [mand,
Even then their love they could not all com-
And half forgot their danger and despair.
Antonia's patience now was at a stand—
"Come, come, 'tis no time now for fooling there,"
She whisper'd in great wrath; "I must deposit
This pretty gentleman within the closet."

CLXXI.

"Pray keep your nonsense for some luckier night—
Who can have put my master in this mood?
What will become on't?—I'm in such a fright!
The devil's in the urchin, and no good—
Is this a time for giggling? this a plight?
Why, don't you know that it may end in blood?
You'll lose your life, and I shall lose my place,
My mistress, all, for that half-girlish face.

CLXXII.

"Had it but been for a stout cavalier [haste)—
Of twenty-five or thirty—(Come, make
But for a child, what piece of work is here!
I really, madam, wonder at your taste—
(Come, sir, get in)—my master must be near:
There for the present, at the least, he's fast,
And if we can but till the morning keep
Our counsel—(Juan, mind, you must not sleep)."

CLXXIII.

Now Don Alfonso, entering, but alone,
Closed the oration of the trusty maid:
She loiter'd, and he told her to be gone,
An order somewhat sullenly obey'd;
However, present remedy was none, [stay'd;
And no great good seem'd answer'd if she
Regarding both with slow and sidelong view,
She snuff'd the candle, curtsied, and withdrew.

CLXXIV.

Alfonso paused a minute—then begun
Some strange excuses for his late proceed-
He would not justify what he had done; [ing;
To say the best, it was extreme ill-breeding;
But there were ample reasons for it, none
Of which he specified in this his pleading:
His speech was a fine sample, on the whole,
Of rhetoric, which the learn'd call "*rigmarole*."

CLXXV.

Julia said nought; though all the while there
A ready answer, which at once enables [rose
A matron, who her husband's foible knows,
By a few timely words to turn the tables,
Which, if it does not silence, still must pose—
Even if it should comprise a pack of fables;
'Tis to retort with firmness, and when he
Suspects with *one*, do you reproach with *three*.

CLXXVI.

Julia, in fact, had tolerable grounds—
Alfonso's loves with Inez were well known;
But whether 'twas that one's own guilt confounds—
But that can't be, as has been often shown,
A lady with apologies abounds;—
It might be that her silence sprang alone
From delicacy to Don Juan's ear,
To whom she knew his mother's fame was dear.

CLXXVII.

There might be one more motive, which makes
Alfonso ne'er to Juan had alluded— [two,
Mention'd his jealousy, but never who
Had been the happy lover, he concluded,
Conceal'd amongst his premises; 'tis true,
His mind the more o'er this its mystery brooded:
To speak of Inez now were, one may say,
Like throwing Juan in Alfonso's way.

CLXXVIII.

A hint, in tender cases, is enough:
Silence is best; besides, there is a *tact*—
(That modern phrase appears to me sad stuff,
But it will serve to keep my verse compact)— [rough,
Which keeps, when push'd by questions rather
A lady always distant from the fact:
The charming creatures lie with such a grace,
There's nothing so becoming to the face.

CLXXIX.

They blush, and we believe them; at least I
Have always done so; 'tis of no great use,
In any case attempting a reply, [fuse;
For then their eloquence grows quite pro-
And when at length they're out of breath, they sigh, [loose
And cast their languid eyes down, and let
A tear or two, and then we make it up; [sup.
And then—and then—and then—sit down and

CLXXX.

Alfonso closed his speech, and begg'd her pardon, [granted,
Which Julia half withheld and then half
And laid conditions he thought very hard on,
Denying several little things he wanted:
He stood like Adam lingering near his garden,
With useless penitence perplex'd and haunted:
Beseeching she no further would refuse, [ed,
When, lo! he stumbled o'er a pair of shoes.

CLXXXI.

A pair of shoes!—what then? not much, if they
Are such as fit with ladies' feet; but these
(No one can tell how much I grieve to say)
Were masculine: to see them, and to seize,
Was but a moment's act.—Ah! well-a-day!
My teeth begin to chatter, my veins freeze—
Alfonso first examined well their fashion,
And then flew out into another passion.

CLXXXII.

He left the room for his relinquish'd sword,
And Julia instant to the closet flew. [word—
"Fly, Juan, fly! for heaven's sake—not a
The door is open—you may yet slip through
The passage you so often have explored—
Here is the garden-key. Fly—fly—Adieu!
Haste—haste! I hear Alfonso's hurrying feet—
Day has not broke—there's no one in the
street."

CLXXXIII.

None can say that this was not good advice;
The only mischief was, it came too late;
Of all experience 'tis the usual price,
A sort of income-tax laid on by fate:
Juan had reach'd the room-door in a trice,
And might have done so by the garden-gate,
But met Alfonso in his dressing gown, [down.
Who threaten'd death—so Juan knocked him

CLXXXIV.

Dire was the scuffle, and out went the light;
Antonia cried out "Rape!" and Julia "Fire!"
But not a servant stirr'd to aid the fight.
Alfonso, pommel'd to his heart's desire,
Swore lustily he'd be revenged this night:
And Juan, too, blasphemed an octave higher;
His blood was up; though young, he was a
Tartar,
And not at all disposed to prove a martyr.

CLXXXV.

Alfonso's sword had dropped ere he could
draw it,
And they continued battling hand to hand,
For Juan very luckily ne'er saw it;
His temper not being under great command.
If at that moment he had chanced to claw it,
Alfonso's days had not been in the land
Much longer.—Think of husbands', lovers'
lives,
And how ye may be doubly widows—wives!

CLXXXVI.

Alfonso grappled to detain the foe,
And Juan throttled him to get away,
And blood ('twas from the nose) began to flow;
At last, as they more faintly wrestling lay,
Juan contrived to give an awkward blow,
And then his only garment quite gave way:
He fled, like Joseph, leaving it; but there,
I doubt, all likeness ends between the pair.

CLXXXVII.

Lights came at length, and men, and maids,
who found
An awkward spectacle their eyes before;
Antonia in hysterics, Julia swoon'd,
Alfonso leaning breathless by the door;
Some half-torn drapery scatter'd on the
ground,
Some blood and several footsteps, but no
more;
Juan the gate gain'd, turn'd the key about,
And liking not the inside, lock'd the out.

CLXXXVIII.

Here ends this canto. Need I sing, or say,
How Julian naked, favor'd by the night,
Who favors what she should not, found his way
And reach'd his home in an unseemly plight?
The pleasant scandal which arose next day,
The nine days' wonder which was brought
And how Alfonso sued for a divorce, [to light,
Were in the English newspapers, of course.

CLXXXIX.

If you would like to see the whole proceedings,
The depositions and the cause at full,
The names of all the witnesses, the pleadings
Of counsel to nonsuit, or to annul, [ings
There's more than one edition, and the read-
Are various, but they none of them are dull:
The best is that in shorthand, ta'en by Gurney,
Who to Madrid on purpose made a journey.

CXC.

But Donna Inez, to divert the train
Of one of the most circulating scandals
That had for centuries been known in Spain,
At least since the retirement of the Vandals,
First vow'd (and never had she vow'd in vain)
To Virgin Mary several pounds of candles;
And then, by the advice of some old ladies,
She sent her son to be shipp'd off from Cadiz.

CXCI.

She had resolved that he should travel through
All European climes by land or sea,
To mend his former morals, and get new,
Especially in France and Italy
(At least this is the thing most people do).
Julia was sent into a convent: she [ter
Grieved, but perhaps her feelings may be bet-
Shown in the following copy of her letter:—

CXCII.

"They tell me 'tis decided, you depart:
'Tis wise—'tis well, but not the less a pain:
I have no further claim on your young heart,
Mine is the victim, and would be again;
To love too much has been the only art
I used;—I write in haste, and if a stain
Be on this sheet, 'tis not what it appears:
My eyeballs burn and throb, but have no tears.

CXCIII.

"I loved, I love you, for this love have lost
State, station, heaven, mankind's, my own
esteem;
And yet cannot regret what it hath cost,
So dear is still the memory of that dream;
Yet if I name my guilt, 'tis not to boast.
None can deem harshlier of me than I deem:
I trace this scrawl because I cannot rest—
I've nothing to reproach, or to request.

CXCIV.

"Man's love is of man's life a thing apart,
'Tis woman's whole existence; man may
range [mar],
The court, camp, church, the vessel, and the

Sword, gown, gain, glory, offer in exchange
Pride, fame, ambition, to fill up his heart,
And few there are whom these cannot estrange:
Men have all these resources, we but one,
To love again, and be again undone.

CXCV.

"You will proceed in pleasure, and in pride,
Beloved and loving many; all is o'er
For me on earth, except some years to hide
My shame and sorrow deep in my heart's core;
These I could bear, but cannot cast aside
The passion which still rages as before—
And so farewell—forgive me, love me—No;
That word is idle now—but let it go.

CXCVI.

"My breast has been all weakness, is so yet,
But still I think I can collect my mind;
My blood still rushes where my spirits set,
As roll the waves before the settled wind;
My heart is feminine, nor can forget—
To all, except one image, madly blind:
So shakes the needle, and so stands the pole,
As vibrates my fond heart to my fix'd soul.

CXCVII.

"I have no more to say, but linger still,
And dare not set my seal upon this sheet;
And yet I may as well the task fulfil,
My misery can scarce be more complete.
I had not lived till now, could sorrow kill;
Death shuns the wretch who fain the blow would meet;
And I must even survive this last adieu,
And bear with life, to love and pray for you!"

CXCVIII.

This note was written upon gilt-edged paper,
With a neat little crow-quill, slight and new;
Her small white hand could hardly reach the taper,
It trembled as magnetic needles do,
And yet she did not let one tear escape her;
The seal a sunflower, "*Elle vous suit partout*," the motto cut upon a white cornelian;
The wax was superfine, its hue vermilion.

CXCIX.

This was Don Juan's earliest scrape; but whether
I shall proceed with his adventures is
Dependent on the public altogether:
We'll see, however, what they say to this.
Their favor in an author's cap's a feather,
And no great mischief's done by their caprice;
And if their approbation we experience,
Perhaps they'll have some more about a year hence.

CC.

My poem's epic, and is meant to be
Divided in twelve books; each book containing,
With love, and war, a heavy gale at sea,
A list of ships, and captains, and kings reigning,
New characters; the episodes are three:
A panoramic view of hell's in training,
After the style of Virgil and of Homer,
So that my name of epic's no misnomer.

CCI.

All these things will be specified in time,
With strict regard to Aristotle's rules,
The *Vade Mecum* of the true sublime,
Which makes so many poets and some fools:
Prose poets like blank verse, I'm fond of rhyme,
Good workmen never quarrel with their tools;
I've got new mythological machinery,
And very handsome supernatural scenery.

CCII.

There's only one slight difference between
Me and my epic brethren gone before;
And here the advantage is my own, I ween
(Not that I have not several merits more,
But this will more peculiarly be seen):
They so embellish, that 'tis quite a bore
Their labyrinth of fables to thread through,
Whereas this story's actually true.

CCIII.

If any person doubt it, I appeal
To history, tradition, and to facts,
To newspapers, whose truth all know and feel,
To plays in five, and operas in three, acts;
All these confirm my statement a good deal,
But that which more completely faith exacts
Is that myself, and several now in Seville,
Saw Juan's last elopement with the devil.

CCIV.

If ever I should condescend to prose,
I'll write poetical commandments, which
Shall supersede beyond all doubt all those
That went before; in these I shall enrich
My text with many things that no one knows,
And carry precept to the highest pitch:
I'll call the work "Longinus o'er a Bottle;
Or, Every Poet his *own* Aristotle."

CCV.

Thou shalt believe in Milton, Dryden, Pope:
Thou shalt not set up Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey;
Because the first is crazed beyond all hope,
The second drunk, the third so quaint and mouthey:
With Crabbe it may be difficult to cope,
And Campbell's Hippocrene is somewhat drouthy:
Thou shalt not steal from Samuel Rogers, nor
Commit—flirtation with the muse of Moore.

CCVI.

Thou shalt not covet Mr. Sotheby's muse,
His Pegasus, nor anything that's his;
Thou shalt not bear false witness like "the Blues"—
(There's one, at least, is very fond of this);
Thou shalt not write, in short, but what I choose;

This is the true criticism, and you may kiss—
Exactly as you please, or not—the rod;
But if you don't I'll lay it on, by G—d!

CCVII.

If any person should presume to assert
This story is not moral, first, I pray
That they will not cry out before they're hurt,
Then that they'll read it o'er again, and say
(But doubtless nobody will be so pert)
That this is not a moral tale, though gay;
Besides, in Canto Twelfth I mean to show
The very place where wicked people go.

CCVIII.

If, after all, there should be some so blind
To their own good, this warning to despise,
Led by some tortuosity of mind,
Not to believe my verse, and their own eyes,
And cry that they "the moral" cannot find,
I tell him, if a clergyman, he lies;
Should captains the remark, or critics, make,
They also lie, too—under a mistake.

CCIX.

The public approbation I expect,
And beg they'll take my word about the moral,
Which I with their amusement will connect
(So children cutting teeth receive a coral);
Meantime they'll doubtless please to recollect
My epical pretensions to the laurel;
For fear some prudish readers should grow skittish,
I've bribed my grandmother's review—the *British*.

CCX.

I sent it in a letter to the Editor,
Who thank'd me duly by return of post—
I'm for a handsome article his creditor;
Yet if my gentle Muse he please to roast,
And break a promise after having made it her,
Denying the receipt of what it cost,
And smear his page with gall instead of honey,
All I can say is—that he had the money.

CCXI.

I think that, with this holy new alliance,
I may ensure the public, and defy
All other magazines of art or science,
Daily, or monthly, or three-monthly; I
Have not essay'd to multiply their clients,
Because they tell me 'twere in vain to try,
And that the *Edinburgh Review* and *Quarterly*
Treat a dissenting author very martyrly.

CCXII.

"*Non eo hoc ferrem calida juventa*
Consule Planco," Horace said, and so
Say I; by which quotation there is meant a
Hint that, some six or seven good years ago
(Long ere I dreamt of dating from the Brenta),
I was most ready to return a blow,
And would not brook at all this sort of thing
In my hot youth—when George the Third was king.

CCXIII.

But now, at thirty years, my hair is gray—
(I wonder what it will be like at forty?
I thought of a peruke the other day)—
My heart is not much greener; and, in short, I
Have squander'd my whole summer while 'twas May,
And feel no more the spirit to retort: I have spent my life, both interest and principal,
And deem not, what I deem'd, my soul invincible.

CCXIV.

No more—no more—Oh! never more on me
The freshness of the heart can fall like dew,
Which out of all the lovely things we see
Extracts emotions beautiful and new,
Hived in our bosoms like the bag o' the bee:
Think'st thou the honey with those objects grew?
Alas! 'twas not in them, but in thy power
To double even the sweetness of a flower.

CCXV.

No more—no more—Oh! never more, my heart,
Canst thou be my sole world, my universe!
Once all in all, but now a thing apart,
Thou canst not be my blessing or my curse:
The illusion's gone forever, and thou art
Insensible, I trust, but none the worse,
And in thy stead I've got a deal of judgment,
Though Heaven knows how it ever found a lodgment.

CCXVI.

My days of love are over; me no more *
The charms of maid, wife, and still less of widow,
Can make the fool of which they made before:
In short, I must not lead the life I did do;
The credulous hope of mutual minds is o'er,
The copious use of claret is forbid, too:
So for a good old-gentlemanly vice,
I think I must take up with avarice.

CCXVII.

Ambition was my idol, which was broken
Before the shrines of Sorrow and of Pleasure;
And the two last have left me many a token
O'er which reflection may be made at leisure;
Now, like Friar Bacon's brazen head, I've spoken,
"Time is, Time was, Time's past";—a chymic treasure
Is glittering youth, which I have spent betimes—
My heart in passion and my head on rhymes.

CCXVIII.

What is the end of Fame? 'tis but to fill
A certain portion of uncertain paper:
Some liken it to climbing up a hill,
Whose summit, like all hills, is lost in vapor:

* Me nec femina, nec puer
Jam, nec spes animi credula mutui,
Nec certare juvat mero:
Nec vincire novis tempora floribus.

For this men write, speak, preach, and heroes kill, [night taper,"
And bards burn what they call their "mid-
To have, when the original is dust,
A name, a wretched picture, and worse bust.

CCXIX.

What are the hopes of man? Old Egypt's king
Cheops erected the first pyramid,
And largest, thinking it was just the thing
To keep his memory whole, and mummy hid;
But somebody or other, rummaging,
Burglariously broke his coffin's lid:
Let not a monument give you or me hopes,
Since not a pinch of dust remains of Cheops.

CCXX.

But I, being fond of true philosophy,
Say very often to myself, "Alas! [die,
All things that have been born were born to
And flesh (which Death mows down to hay)
is grass;
You've pass'd your youth not so unpleasantly,
And if you had it o'er again—'twould pass—
So thank your stars that matters are no worse,
And read your Bible, sir, and mind your purse."

CCXXI.

But for the present, gentle reader! and
Still gentler purchaser! the bard—that's I—
Must, with permission, shake you by the hand,
And so your humble servant, and good-bye!
We meet again if we should understand
Each other; and if not, I shall not try
Your patience further than by this short sample—
'Twere well if others follow'd my example.

CCXXII.

"Go, little book, from this my solitude!
I cast thee on the waters—go thy ways!
And if, as I believe, thy vein be good,
The world will find thee after many days."
When Southey's read and Wordsworth understood,
I can't help putting in my claim to praise—
The four first rhymes are Southey's, every line;
For God's sake, reader! take them not for mine.

CANTO THE SECOND.

1819.

I.

O YE! who teach the ingenuous youth of nations, [Spain,
Holland, France, England, Germany, or
I pray ye flog them upon all occasions,
It mends their morals; never mind the pain:
The best of mothers and of educations,
In Juan's case, were but employ'd in vain,
Since, in a way that's rather of the oddest, he
Became divested of his native modesty.

II.

Had he been but placed at a public school,
In the third form, or even in the fourth,
His daily task had kept his fancy cool,
At least had he been nurtured in the north;
Spain may prove an exception to this rule,
But then exceptions always prove its worth—
A lad of sixteen causing a divorce,
Puzzled his tutors very much, of course.

III.

I can't say that it puzzles me at all,
If all things be consider'd: first there was
His lady-mother, mathematical,
A——never mind;—his tutor, an old ass;
A pretty woman—(that's quite natural,
Or else the thing had hardly come to pass);
A husband rather old, not much in unity
With his young wife—a time and opportunity.

IV.

Well—well, the world must turn upon its axis,
And all mankind turn with it, heads or tails,
And live and die, make love, and pay our taxes,
And as the veering winds shift, shift our sails;
The king commands us, and the doctor quacks us,
The priest instructs, and so our life exhales;
A little breath, love, wine, ambition, fame,
Fighting, devotion, dust—perhaps a name.

V.

I said that Juan had been sent to Cadiz—
A pretty town, I recollect it well—
'Tis there the mart of the colonial trade is
(Or was, before Peru learn'd to rebel),
And such sweet girls—I mean such graceful ladies, [swell,
Their very walk would make your bosom
I can't describe it, though so much it strike,
Nor liken it—I never saw the like.

VI.

An Arab horse, a stately stag, a barb
New broke, a camelopard, a gazelle,
No—none of these will do; and then their garb!
Their veil and petticoat—Alas! to dwell
Upon such things would very near absorb
A canto—then their feet and ankles—well,
Thank Heaven I've got no metaphor quite ready, [steady—
(And so my sober Muse—come, let's be

VII.

Chaste Muse!—well, if you must, you must)—
the veil [hand,
Thrown back a moment with the glancing
While the o'erpowering eye, that turns you pale,
Flashes into the heart:—All sunny land
Of love! when I forget you, may I fail
To——say my prayers—but never was there plann'd

A dress through which the eyes give such a volley,
Excepting the Venetian Fazzioli.*

VIII.

But to our tale: the Donna Inez sent
Her son to Cadiz only to embark;
To stay there had not answer'd her intent,
But why?—we leave the reader in the dark—
'Twas for a voyage the young man was meant,
As if a Spanish ship were Noah's ark,
To wean him from the wickedness of earth,
And send him like a dove of promise forth.

IX.

Don Juan bade his valet pack his things
According to direction, then received
A lecture and some money: for four springs
He was to travel; and, though Inez grieved
(As every kind of parting has its stings),
She hoped he would improve—perhaps believed:
A letter, too, she gave (he never read it),
Of good advice, and two or three of credit.

X.

In the mean time, to pass her hours away,
Brave Inez now set up a Sunday school:
For naughty children, who would rather play
(Like truant rogues) the devil, or the fool;
Infants of three years old were taught that day,
Dunces were whipt, or set upon a stool:
The great success of Juan's education
Spurr'd her to teach another generation.

XI.

Juan embark'd, the ship got under way,
The wind was fair, the water passing rough;
A devil of a sea rolls in that bay,
As I, who've cross'd it oft, know well enough;
And standing upon deck, the dashing spray
Flies in one's face, and makes it weather-tough:
And there he stood to take, and take again,
His first—perhaps his last—farewell of Spain.

XII.

I can't but say it is an awkward sight
To see one's native land receding through
The growing waters; it unmans one quite,
Especially when life is rather new:
I recollect Great Britain's coast looks white,
But almost every other country's blue,
When, gazing on them, mystified by distance,
We enter on our nautical existence.

XIII.

So Juan stood, bewilder'd, on the deck:
The wind sung, cordage strain'd, and sailors swore,
And the ship creak'd, the town became a speck,
From which away so fair and fast they bore.
The best of remedies is a beefsteak
Against sea-sickness: try it, sir, before
You sneer, and I assure you this is true,
For I have found it answer—so may you.

XIV.

Don Juan stood, and gazing from the stern,
Beheld his native Spain receding far;
First partings form a lesson hard to learn,
Even nations feel this when they go to war;
There is a sort of unexprest concern,
A kind of shock that sets one's heart ajar:
At leaving even the most unpleasant people
And places, one keeps looking at the steeple.

XV.

But Juan had got many things to leave,
His mother, and a mistress, and no wife,
So that he had much better cause to grieve
Than many persons more advanced in life;
And if we now and then a sigh must heave
At quitting even those we quit in strife,
No doubt we weep for those the heart endears—
That is, till deeper griefs congeal our tears.

XVI.

So Juan wept, as wept the captive Jews
By Babel's waters, still remembering Sion:
I'd weep—but mine is not a weeping Muse,
And such light griefs are not a thing to die on:
Young men should travel, if but to amuse
Themselves; and the next time their servants tie on
Behind their carriages their new portmanteau,
Perhaps it may be lined with this my canto.

XVII.

And Juan wept, and much he sigh'd, and thought,
While his salt tears dropp'd into the salt sea,
"Sweets to the sweet"; (I like so much to quote;
You must excuse this extract—'tis where she,
The queen of Denmark, for Ophelia brought
Flowers to the grave); and, sobbing often, he
Reflected on his present situation,
And seriously resolved on reformation.

XVIII.

"Farewell, my Spain! a long farewell!" he cried;
"Perhaps I may revisit thee no more,
But die, as many an exiled heart hath died,
Of its own thirst to see again thy shore:
Farewell, where Guadalquivir's waters glide!
Farewell, my mother! and since all is o'er,
Farewell, too, dearest Julia!" (here he drew
Her letter out again, and read it through).

XIX.

"And oh! if e'er I should forget, I swear—
But that's impossible, and cannot be—
Sooner shall this blue ocean melt to air,
Sooner shall earth resolve itself to sea,
Than I resign thine image, oh, my fair!
Or think of anything excepting thee;
A mind diseased no remedy can physic"—

* Fazzioli—literally the little handkerchiefs—the veils most availing of St. Mark.

(Here the ship gave a lurch, and he grew sea-sick.)

XX.

"Sooner shall heaven kiss earth"—(here he fell sicker)
"Oh, Julia! whas is every other woe?—
(For God's sake, let me have a glass of liquor;
Pedro, Battista, help me down below)—
Julia, my love! (you rascal, Pedro, quicker)—
Oh, Julia!—(this curst vessel pitches so)—
Beloved Julia, hear me still beseeching!"
(Here he grew inarticulate with retching.)

XXI.

He felt that chilling heaviness of heart,
Or rather stomach, which, alas! attends,
Beyond the best apothecary's art,
The loss of love, the treachery of friends,
Or death of those we dote on, when a part
Of us dies with them, as each fond hope ends:
No doubt he would have been much more pathetic,
But the sea acted as a strong emetic.

XXII.

Love's a capricious power: I've known it hold
Out through a fever caused by its own heat,
But be much puzzled by a cough and cold,
And find a quinsy very hard to treat:
Against all noble maladies he's bold,
But vulgar illnesses don't like to meet,
Nor that a sneeze should interrupt his sigh,
Nor inflammations redden his blind eye.

XXIII.

But worst of all is nausea, or a pain
About the lower regions of the bowels;
Love, who heroically breathes a vein,
Shrinks from the application of hot towels,
And purgatives are dangerous to his reign,
Sea-sickness, death: his love was perfect, how else
Could Juan's passion, while the billows roar,
Resist his stomach, ne'er at sea before?

XXIV.

The ship, call'd the most holy "Trinidada,"
Was steering duly for the port Leghorn;
For there the Spanish family Moncada
Were settled long ere Juan's sire was born:
They were relations, and for them he had a
Letter of introduction, which the morn
Of his departure had been sent him by
His Spanish friends for those in Italy.

XXV.

His suite consisted of three servants and
A tutor, the licentiate Pedrillo,
Who several languages did understand, [low,
But now lay sick and speechless on his pil-
And, rocking in his hammock, long'd for land,
His headache being increased by every billow; [made
And the waves oozing through the porthole
His berth a little damp, and him afraid.

XXVI.

'Twas not without some reason, for the wind
Increased at night, until it blew a gale;
And though 'twas not much to a naval mind,
Some landsmen would have look'd a little pale,
For sailors are, in fact, a different kind;
At sunset they began to take in sail,
For the sky show'd it would come on to blow,
And carry away, perhaps, a mast or so.

XXVII.

At one o'clock, the wind with sudden shift
Threw the ship right into the trough of the sea, [rift,
Which struck her aft, and made an awkward
Started the stern-post, also shatter'd the
Whole of her stern frame, and, ere she could
Herself from out her present jeopardy, [lift
The rudder tore away: 'twas time to sound
The pumps, and there were four feet water found.

XXVIII.

One gang of people instantly was put
Upon the pumps, and the remaining set
To get up part of the cargo, and what not;
But they could not come at the leak as yet.
At last they did get at it really, but
Still their salvation was an even bet;
The water rush'd through in a way quite puzzling, [of muslin,
While they thrust sheets, shirts, jackets, bales

XXIX.

Into the opening; but all such ingredients
Would have been vain, and they must have gone down,
Despite of all their efforts and expedients,
But for the pumps: I'm glad to make them known [hence,
To all the brother tars who may have need
For fifty tons of water were upthrown
By them per hour, and they had all been undone,
But for the maker, Mr. Mann, of London.

XXX.

As day advanced the weather seem'd to abate,
And then the leak they reckon'd to reduce,
And keep the ship afloat, though three feet yet
Kept two hands and one chain-pump still in use.
The wind blew fresh again: as it grew late
A squall came on, and while some guns broke loose, [scends—
A gust—which all descriptive power tran-
Laid with one blast the ship on her beam-ends.

XXXI.

There she lay, motionless, and seem'd upset;
The water left the hold, and wash'd the decks,
And made a scene men do not soon forget;
For they remember battles, fires, and wrecks,
Or any other thing that brings regret, [necks:
Or breaks their hopes, or hearts, or heads, or

Thus drownings are much talk'd of by the divers,
And swimmers, who may chance to be survivors.

XXXII.

Immediately the masts were cut away,
Both main and mizzen: first the mizzen went,
The main-mast follow'd; but the ship still lay
Like a mere log and baffled our intent.
Foremast and bowsprit were cut down, and they
Eased her at last (although we never meant
To part with all till every hope was blighted),
And then with violence the old ship righted.

XXXIII.

It may be easily supposed, while this
Was going on, some people were unquiet,
That passengers would find it much amiss
To lose their lives as well as spoil their diet;
That even the able seaman, deeming his
Days nearly o'er, might be disposed to riot,
As upon such occasions tars will ask
For grog, and sometimes drink rum from the cask.

XXXIV.

There's nought, no doubt, so much the spirit calms,
As rum and true religion: thus it was,
Some plunder'd, some drank spirits, some sung psalms;
The high wind made the treble, and as bass
The hoarse, harsh waves kept time; fright cured the qualms
Of all the luckless landsmen's sea-sick maws:
Strange sounds of wailing, blasphemy, devotion,
Clamor'd in chorus to the roaring ocean.

XXXV.

Perhaps more mischief had been done, but for
Our Juan, who, with sense beyond his years,
Got to the spirit-room, and stood before
It with a pair of pistols; and their fears,
As if Death were more dreadful by his door
Of fire than water, spite of oaths and tears,
Kept still aloof the crew, who, ere they sunk,
Thought it would be becoming to die drunk.

XXXVI.

"Give us more grog!" they cried, "for it will be
All one an hour hence." Juan answer'd, "No!
'Tis true that death awaits both you and me,
But let us die like men, not sink below
Like brutes";—and thus his dangerous post kept he,
And none liked to anticipate the blow;
And even Pedrillo, his most reverend tutor,
Was for some rum a disappointed suitor.

XXXVII.

The good old gentleman was quite aghast,
And made a loud and pious lamentation;
Repented all his sins, and made a last
Irrevocable vow of reformation;
Nothing should tempt him more (this peril past)
To quit his academic occupation,
In cloisters of the classic Salamanca,
To follow Juan's wake, like Sancho Panca.

XXXVIII.

But now there came a flash of hope once more;
Day broke, and the wind lull'd: the masts were gone,
The leak increased; shoals round her, but no shore,
The vessel swam, yet still she held her own.
They tried the pumps again, and though before
Their desperate efforts seem'd all useless grown,
A glimpse of sunshine set some hands to bale—
The stronger pump'd, the weaker thrumm'd a sail.

XXXIX.

Under the vessel's keel the sail was past,
And for the moment it had some effect;
But with a leak, and not a stick of mast,
Nor rag of canvas, what could they expect?
But still 'tis best to struggle to the last,
'Tis never too late to be wholly wreck'd:
And though 'tis true that man can only die once,
'Tis not so pleasant in the Gulf of Lyons.

XL.

There winds and waves had hurl'd them, and from thence,
Without their will, they carried them away:
For they were forced with steering to dispense,
And never had as yet a quiet day
On which they might repose, or even commence
A jurymast or rudder, or could say
The ship would swim an hour, which, by good luck,
Still swam—though not exactly like a duck.

XLI.

The wind, in fact, perhaps was rather less,
But the ship labor'd so, they scarce could hope
To weather out much longer; the distress
Was also great with which they had to cope
For want of water, and their solid mess
Was scant enough; in vain the telescope
Was used—nor sail nor shore appear'd in sight,
Nought but the heavy sea and coming night.

XLII.

Again the weather threaten'd,—again blew
A gale, and in the fore and after hold
Water appear'd; yet, though the people knew
All this, the most were patient, and some bold,
Until the chains and leathers were worn through
Of all our pumps;—a wreck complete she roll'd
At mercy of the waves, whose mercies are
Like human beings during civil war.

XLIII.

Then came the carpenter, at last, with tears
In his rough eyes, and told the captain he
Could do no more: he was a man in years,
And long had voyaged through many a stormy sea;

And if he wept at length, they were not fears
That made his eyelids as a woman's be,
But he, poor fellow, had a wife and children,
Two things for dying people quite bewil'ring.

XLIV.

The ship was evidently settling now
Fast by the head; and, all distinction gone,
Some went to prayers again, and made a vow
Of candles to their saints—but there were none
To pay them with; and some look'd o'er the bow;
Some hoisted out the boats: and there was one
That begg'd Pedrillo for an absolution,
Who told him to be damn'd—in his confusion.

XLV.

Some lash'd them in their hammocks; some put on
Their best clothes, as if going to a fair;
Some cursed the day on which they saw the sun,
And gnash'd their teeth, and, howling, tore their hair;
And others went on as they had begun,
Getting the boats out, being well aware
That a tight boat will live in a rough sea,
Unless with breakers close beneath her lee.

XLVI.

The worst of all was, that in their condition,
Having been several days in great distress,
'Twas difficult to get out such provision
As now might render their long suffering less:
Men, even when dying, dislike inanition;
Their stock was damaged by the weather's stress;
Two casks of biscuit, and a keg of butter,
Were all that could be thrown into the cutter.

XLVII.

But in the long-boat they contrived to stow
Some pounds of bread, though injured by the wet;
Water, a twenty-gallon cask or so,
Six flasks of wine; and they contrived to get
A portion of their beef up from below,
And with a piece of pork, moreover, met,
But scarce enough to serve them for a luncheon—
Then there was rum, eight gallons in a puncheon.

XLVIII.

The other boats, the yawl and pinnace, had
Been stove, in the beginning of the gale;
And the long-boat's condition was but bad,
As there were but two blankets for a sail,
And one oar for a mast, which a young lad
Threw in by good luck over the ship's rail;
And two boats could not hold, far less be stored,
To save one half the people then on board.

XLIX.

'Twas twilight, and the sunless day went down
Over the waste of waters; like a veil
Which, if withdrawn, would but disclose the frown
Of one whose hate is mask'd but to assail;
Thus to their hopeless eyes the night was shown,
And grimly darkled o'er their faces pale,
And the dim desolate deep: twelve days had Fear
Been their familiar, and now Death was here.

L.

Some trial had been making at a raft,
With little hope in such a rolling sea,
A sort of thing at which one would have laugh'd,
If any laughter at such times could be,
Unless with people who too much have quaff'd,
And have a kind of wild and horrid glee,
Half epileptical and half hysterical:—
Their preservation would have been a miracle.

LI.

At half-past eight o'clock, booms, hencoops, spars,
And all things, for a chance, had been cast loose,
That still could keep afloat the struggling tars,
For yet they strove, although of no great use:
There was no light in heaven but a few stars,
The boats put off, o'ercrowded with their crews,
She gave a heel, and then a lurch to port,
And, going down head foremost—sunk, in short.

LII.

Then rose from sea to sky the wild farewell—
Then shriek'd the timid and stood still the brave—
Then some leap'd overboard with dreadful yell,
As eager to anticipate the grave;
And the sea yawn'd around her like a hell,
And down she suck'd with her the whirling wave,
Like one who grapples with his enemy,
And tries to strangle him before he die.

LIII.

And first one universal shriek there rush'd
Louder than the loud ocean, like a crash
Of echoing thunder; and then all was hush'd,
Save the wild wind and the remorseless dash
Of billows; but at intervals there gush'd,
Accompanied with a convulsive splash,
A solitary shriek, the bubbling cry
Of some strong swimmer in his agony.

LIV.

The boats, as stated, had got off before,
And in them crowded several of the crew;
And yet their present hope was hardly more
Than what it had been; for so strong it blew,
There was slight chance of reaching any shore;
And then they were too many, though so few—
Nine in the cutter, thirty in the boat,
Were counted in them when they got afloat.

LV.

All the rest perish'd: near two hundred souls
Had left their bodies; and what's worse, alas!
When over Catholics the ocean rolls,

They must wait several weeks before a mass
Takes off one peck of purgatorial coals, [pass,
Because, till people know what's come to
They won't lay out their money on the dead—
It costs three francs for every mass that's said.

LVI.

Juan got into the long-boat, and there
Contrived to help Pedrillo to a place:
It seem'd as if they had exchanged their care,
For Juan wore the magisterial face
Which courage gives, while poor Pedrillo's pair
Of eyes were crying for their owner's case;
Battista, though (a name call'd shortly Tita),
Was lost by getting at some aqua-vita.

LVII.

Pedro, his valet, too, he tried to save,
But the same cause, conducive to his loss,
Left him so drunk, he jump'd into the wave,
As o'er the cutter's edge he tried to cross,
And so he found a wine-and-watery grave;
They could not rescue him, although so close,
Because the sea ran higher every minute,
And for the boat—the crew kept crowding in it.

LVIII.

A small old spaniel—which had been Don
Jóse's,
His father's, whom he loved, as ye may think,
For on such things the memory reposes
With tenderness—stood howling on the
brink,
Knowing (dogs have such intellectual noses!)
No doubt, the vessel was about to sink:
And Juan caught him up, and, ere he stepp'd
Off, threw him in, then after him he leap'd.

LIX.

He also stuff'd his money where he could
About his person, and Pedrillo's too,
Who let him do, in fact, whate'er he would,
Not knowing what himself to say or do,
As every rising wave his dread renew'd;
But Juan, trusting they might still get
through,
And deeming there were remedies for any ill,
Thus re-embark'd his tutor and his spaniel.

LX.

'Twas a rough night, and blew so stiffly yet,
That the sail was becalm'd between the seas,
Though on the wave's high top too much to set,
They dared not take it in for all the breeze:
Each sea curl'd o'er the stern, and kept them
wet, [ease,
And made them bale without a moment's
So that themselves as well as hopes were
damp'd,
And the poor little cutter quickly swamp'd.

LXI.

Nine souls more went in her; the long-boat still
Kept above water, with an oar for mast;
Two blankets stitch'd together, answering ill
Instead of sail, were to the oar made fast:
Though every wave roll'd menacing to fill,
And present peril all before surpass'd,
They grieved for those who perished with the
cutter,
And also for the biscuit-casks and butter.

LXII.

The sun rose red and fiery, a sure sign
Of the continuance of the gale: to run
Before the sea, until it should grow fine,
Was all that for the present could be done:
A few tea-spoonfuls of their rum and wine
Were served out to the people, who begun
To faint, and damaged bread wet through the
bags,
And most of them had little clothes but rags.

LXIII.

They counted thirty, crowded in a space
Which left scarce room for motion or exer-
tion:
They did their best to modify their case,
One half sate up, though numb'd with the
immersion, [place,
While t'other half were laid down in their
At watch and watch; thus shivering like the
tertian
Ague in its cold fit, they fill'd their boat,
With nothing but the sky for a great coat.

LXIV.

'Tis very certain the desire of life
Prolongs it; this is obvious to physicians,
When patients, neither plagued with friends
nor wife,
Survive through very desperate conditions,
Because they still can hope, nor shines the knife
Nor shears of Atropos before their visions:
Despair of all recovery spoils longevity,
And makes men's miseries of alarming brevity.

LXV.

'Tis said that persons living on annuities
Are longer lived than others—God knows
why, [it is,
Unless to plague the grantors—yet so true
That some, I really think, *do* never die:
Of any creditors the worst a Jew it is,
And *that's* their mode of furnishing supply:
In my young days they lent me cash that way,
Which I found very troublesome to pay.

LXVI.

'Tis thus with people in an open boat,
They live upon the love of life, and bear
More than can be believed, or even thought,
And stand like rocks the tempest's wear and
tear:
And hardship still has been the sailor's lot,
Since Noah's ark went cruising here and
there;
She had a curious crew as well as cargo,
Like the first old Greek privateer, the *Argo*.

LXVII.

But man is a carnivorous production, [day;
And must have meals, at least one meal a
He cannot live, like woodcocks, upon suction,

But, like the shark and tiger, must have prey:
Although his anatomical construction
Bears vegetables, in a grumbling way, [tion,
Your laboring people think, beyond all ques-
Beef, veal, and mutton, better for digestion.

LXVIII.

And thus it was with this our hapless crew;
For on the third day there came on a calm,
And though at first their strength it might renew,
And, lying on their weariness like balm,
Lull'd them like turtles sleeping on the blue
Of ocean, when they woke they felt a qualm,
And fell all ravenously on their provision,
Instead of hoarding it with due precision.

LXIX.

The consequence was easily foreseen—
They ate up all they had, and drank their [wine,
In spite of all remonstrances, and then
On what, in fact, next day they were to dine?
They hoped the wind would rise, these foolish men, [fine,
And carry them to shore; these hopes were
But as they had but one oar, and that brittle,
It would have been more wise to save their victual.

LXX.

The fourth day came, but not a breath of air,
And Ocean slumber'd like an unwean'd child;
The fifth day, and their boat lay floating there,
The sea and sky were blue, and clear, and mild—
With their one oar (I wish they had had a pair)
What could they do? and hunger's rage grew wild;
So Juan's spaniel, spite of his entreating, [ing.
Was kill'd, and portion'd out for present eat-

LXXI.

On the sixth day they fed upon his hide,
And Juan, who had still refused, because
The creature was his father's dog that died,
Now feeling all the vulture in his jaws,
With some remorse received (though first denied),
As a great favor, one of the fore-paws,
Which he divided with Pedrillo, who
Devour'd it, longing for the other too.

LXXII.

The seventh day, and no wind—the burning sun [the sea,
Blister'd and scorch'd, and, stagnant on
They lay like carcases; and hope was none,
Save in the breeze that came not: savagely
They glared upon each other—all was done,
Water, and wine, and food—and you might
The longings of the cannibal arise [see
(Although they spoke not) in their wolfish eyes.

LXXIII.

At length one whisper'd his companion, who
Whisper'd another, and thus it went round,
And then into a hoarser murmur grew,
An ominous, and wild, and desperate sound:
And when his comrade's thought each sufferer knew, [found:
'Twas but his own, suppress'd till now, he
And out they spoke of lots for flesh and blood,
And who should die to be his fellows' food.

LXXIV.

But ere they came to this, they that day shared
Some leathern caps, and what remain'd of shoes; [spair'd,
And then they look'd around them, and de-
And none to be the sacrifice would choose:
At length the lots were torn up, and prepared,
But of materials that must shock the Muse—
Having no paper, for the want of better,
They took by force from Juan, Julia's letter.

LXXV.

The lots were made, and mark'd, and mix'd, and handed
In silent horror, and their distribution [ed,
Lull'd even the savage hunger which demand-
Like the Promethean vulture, this pollution;
None in particular had sought or plann'd it,
'Twas nature gnaw'd them to this resolution,
By which none were permitted to be neuter—
And the lot fell on Juan's luckless tutor.

LXXVI.

He but requested to be bled to death:
The surgeon had his instruments, and bled
Pedrillo, and so gently ebb'd his breath,
You hardly could perceive when he was dead.
He died, as born, a Catholic in faith, [bred;
Like most, in the belief in which they're
And first a little crucifix he kiss'd,
And then held out his jugular and wrist.

LXXVII.

The surgeon, as there was no other fee,
Had his first choice of morsels for his pains;
But being thirstiest at the moment he [veins:
Preferred a draught from the fast-flowing
Part was divided, part thrown in the sea,
And such things as the entrails and the brains [billow—
Regaled two sharks who follow'd o'er the
The sailors ate the rest of poor Pedrillo.

LXXVIII.

The sailors ate him, all save three or four,
Who were not quite so fond of animal food;
To these were added Juan, who, before
Refusing his own spaniel, hardly could
Feel now his appetite increase much more;
'Twas not to be expected that he should,
Even in extremity of their disaster,
Dine with them on his pastor and his master.

LXXIX.

'Twas better that he did not; for in fact,
The consequence was awful in the extreme;
For they who were most ravenous in the act,
Went raving mad—Lord! how they did blaspheme! [rack'd,
And foam, and roll, with strange convulsions

Drinking salt water like a mountain-stream;
Tearing, and grinning, howling, screeching, swearing,
And with hyæna-laughter, died despairing.

LXXX.

Their numbers were much thinn'd by this infliction,
And all the rest were thin enough, Heaven knows;
And some of them had lost their recollection,
Happier than they who still perceived their woes;
But others ponder'd on a new dissection,
As if not warn'd sufficiently by those
Who had already perish'd, suffering madly,
For having used their appetites so sadly.

LXXXI.

And next they thought upon the master's mate,
As fattest; but he saved himself, because,
Besides being much averse from such a fate,
There were some other reasons: the first was,
He had been rather indisposed of late;
And that which chiefly proved his saving clause,
Was a small present made to him at Cadiz,
By general subscription of the ladies.

LXXXII.

Of poor Pedrillo something still remain'd
But was used sparingly,—some were afraid,
And others still their appetites constrain'd,
Or but at times a little supper made;
All except Juan, who throughout abstain'd,
Chewing a piece of bamboo, and some lead:
At length they caught two boobies and a noddy,
And then they left off eating the dead body.

LXXXIII.

And if Pedrillo's fate should shocking be,
Remember Ugolino condescends
To eat the head of his arch enemy,*
The moment after he politely ends
His tale: if foes be food in hell, at sea
'Tis surely fair to dine upon our friends,
When shipwreck's short allowance grows too scanty,
Without being much more horrible than [Dante.

LXXXIV.

And the same night there fell a shower of rain,
For which their mouths gaped, like the cracks of earth
When dried to summer dust; till taught by pain,
Men really know not what good water's worth:
If you had been in Turkey or in Spain,
Or with a famish'd boat's crew had your birth,
Or in the desert heard the camel's bell,
You'd wish yourself where Truth is—in a well.

LXXXV.

It pour'd down torrents, but they were no richer,
Until they found a ragged piece of sheet,
Which served them as a sort of spongy pitcher,
And when they deem'd its moisture was complete,
They wrung it out, and though a thirsty ditcher
Might not have thought the scanty draught so sweet
As a full pot of porter, to their thinking,
They ne'er till now had known the joys of drinking.

LXXXVI.

And their baked lips, with many a bloody crack,
Suck'd in the moisture which like nectar stream'd;
Their throats were ovens, their swoll'n tongues were black,
As the rich man's in hell, who vainly scream'd
To beg the beggar, who could not rain back
A drop of dew, when every drop had seem'd
To taste of heaven—if this be true, indeed,
Some Christians have a comfortable creed.

LXXXVII.

There were two fathers in this ghastly crew,
And with them their two sons, of whom the one
Was more robust and hardy to the view,
But he died early; and when he was gone,
His nearest messmate told his sire, who threw
One glance on him, and said, "Heaven's will be done:
I can do nothing"; and he saw him thrown
Into the deep, without a tear or groan.

LXXXVIII.

The other father had a weaklier child,
Of a soft cheek and aspect delicate;
But the boy bore up long, and with a mild
And patient spirit held aloof his fate:
Little he said, and now and then he smiled
As if to win a part from off the weight
He saw increasing on his father's heart, part.
With the deep deadly thought that they must

LXXXIX.

And o'er him bent his sire, and never raised
His eyes from off his face, but wiped the foam
From his pale lips, and ever on him gazed;
And when the wished-for shower at length was come,
And the boy's eyes, which the dull film half glazed,
Brighten'd and for a moment seem'd to roam,
He squeezed from out a rag some drops of rain
Into his dying child's mouth—but in vain.

XC.

The boy expired—the father held the clay,
And look'd upon it long; and when at last
Death left no doubt, and the dead burthen lay
Stiff on his heart, and pulse and hope were past,
He watch'd it wistfully, until away
'Twas borne by the rude wave wherein 'twas cast;
Then he himself sunk down all dumb and shivering,

* Dante's "Inferno," Canto 30, v. 60.

And gave no signs of life, save his limbs quivering.

XCI.

Now overhead a rainbow, bursting through
The scattering clouds, shone, spanning the dark sea,
Resting its bright base on the quivering blue,
And all within its arch appear'd to be
Clearer than that without, and its wide hue
Wax'd broad and waving like a banner free,
Then changed like to a bow that's bent, and then [men.
Forsook the dim eyes of these shipwreck'd

XCII.

It changed, of course; a heavenly chameleon,
The airy child of vapor and the sun,
Brought forth in purple, cradled in vermilion,
Baptized in molten gold, and swathed in dun,
Glittering like crescents o'er a Turk's pavilion,
And blending every color into one,
Just like a black eye in a recent scuffle [fle).
(For sometimes we must box without the muf-

XCIII.

Our shipwreck'd seamen thought it a good omen—
It is as well to think so now and then:
'Twas an old custom of the Greek and Roman,
And may become of great advantage when
Folks are discouraged; and most surely no men
Had greater need to nerve themselves again,
Than these, and so this rainbow look'd like
Quite a celestial kaleidoscope. [hope—

XCIV.

About this time a beautiful white bird,
Web-footed, not unlike a dove in size
And plumage (probably it might have err'd
Upon its course), pass'd oft before their eyes,
And tried to perch, although it saw and heard
The men within the boat, and in this guise
It came and went, and flutter'd round them till
Night fell—this seem'd a better omen still.

XCV.

But in this case I also must remark, [perch,
'Twas well this bird of promise did not
Because the tackle of our shatter'd bark
Was not so safe for roosting as a church;
And had it been the dove from Noah's ark,
Returning there from her successful search,
Which in their way that moment chanced to fall,
They would have eat her, olive-branch and all.

XCVI.

With twilight it again came on to blow,
But not with violence; the stars shone out,
The boat made way; yet now they were so low
They knew not where nor what they were about:
Some fancied they saw land, and some said "No!" [doubt—
The frequent fog-banks gave them cause to

Some swore that they heard breakers, others
And all mistook about the latter once. [guns,

XCVII.

As morning broke, the light wind died away,
When he who had the watch sung out and swore,
If 'twas not land that rose with the sun's ray,
He wish'd that land he never might see more;
And the rest rubb'd their eyes, and saw a bay,
Or thought they saw, and shaped their course for shore;
For shore it was, and gradually grew
Distinct and high, and palpable to view.

XCVIII.

And then of these some part burst into tears,
And others, looking with a stupid stare,
Could not yet separate their hopes from fears,
And seem'd as if they had no further care;
While a few pray'd—(the first time for some years)—
And at the bottom of the boat three were
Asleep: they shook them by the hand and head,
And tried to waken them, but found them dead.

XCIX.

The day before, fast sleeping on the water,
They found a turtle of the hawk's-bill kind,
And by good fortune, gliding softly, caught her,
Which yielded a day's life, and to their mind
Proved even still a more nutritious matter,
Because it left encouragement behind:
They thought that in such perils, more than chance
Had sent them this for their deliverance.

C.

The land appear'd a high and rocky coast,
And higher grew the mountains as they drew,
Set by a current toward it; they were lost
In various conjectures, for none knew
To what part of the earth they had been tost,
So changeable had been the winds that blew:
Some thought it was Mount Ætna, some the highlands
Of Candia, Cyprus, Rhodes, or other islands.

CI.

Meantime the current, with a rising gale,
Still set them onwards to the welcome shore,
Like Charon's bark of spectres, dull and pale;
Their living freight was now reduced to four, [not avail
And three dead, whom their strength could
To heave into the deep with those before,
Though the two sharks still follow'd them, and dash'd
The spray into their faces as they splash'd.

CII.

Famine, despair, cold, thirst, and heat, had done [them to
Their work on them by turns, and thinn'd

Such things, a mother had not known her son
Amidst the skeletons of that gaunt crew:
By night chill'd, by day scorch'd, thus one by one
They perish'd, until wither'd to these few,
But chiefly by a species of self-slaughter,
In washing down Pedrillo with salt water.

CIII.

As they drew nigh the land, which now was seen
Unequal in its aspect here and there,
They felt the freshness of its growing green,
That waved in forest tops, and smooth'd the air,
And fell upon their glazed eyes like a screen
From glistening waves, and skies so hot and bare—
Lovely seem'd any object that should sweep
Away the vast, salt, dread, eternal deep.

CIV.

The shore look'd wild, without a trace of man,
And girt by formidable waves; but they
Were mad for land, and thus their course they ran,
Though right ahead the roaring breakers lay:
A reef between them also now began
To show its boiling surf and bounding spray;
But finding no place for their landing better,
They ran the boat for shore—and overset her.

CV.

But in his native stream, the Guadalquivir,
Juan to lave his youthful limbs was wont;
And having learnt to swim in that sweet river,
Had often turn'd the art to some account:
A better swimmer you could scarce see ever,
He could, perhaps, have pass'd the Hellespont,
As once (a feat on which ourselves we prided)
Leander, Mr. Ekenhead, and I did.

CVI.

So here, though faint, emaciated, and stark,
He buoy'd his boyish limbs, and strove to ply
With the quick wave, and gain, ere it was dark,
The beach which lay before him, high and dry:
The greatest danger here was from a shark,
That carried off his neighbor by the thigh;
As for the other two, they could not swim,
So nobody arrived on shore but him.

CVII.

Nor yet had he arrived but for the oar,
Which, providentially for him, was wash'd
Just as his feeble arms could strike no more,
And the hard wave o'erwhelm'd him as 'twas dash'd
Within his grasp: he clung to it, and sore
The waters beat while he thereto was lash'd;
At last, with swimming, wading, scrambling, he
Roll'd on the beach, half-senseless, from the sea.

CVIII.

There, breathless, with his digging nails he clung
Fast to the sand, lest the returning wave,
From whose reluctant roar his life he wrung,
Should suck him back to her insatiate grave:
And there he lay full length, where he was flung,
Before the entrance of a cliff-worn cave,
With just enough of life to feel its pain,
And deem that it was saved, perhaps in vain.

CIX.

With slow and staggering effort he arose,
But sunk again upon his bleeding knee
And quivering hand: and then he look'd for those
Who long had been his mates upon the sea;
But none of them appear'd to share his woes,
Save one, a corpse, from out the famish'd three,
Who died two days before, and now had found
An unknown barren beach for burial ground.

CX.

And as he gazed, his dizzy brain spun fast,
And down he sunk; and as he sunk, the sand
Swam round and round, and all his senses pass'd:
He fell upon his side, and his stretch'd hand
Droop'd dripping on the oar (their jury-mast);
And, like a wither'd lily, on the land
His slender frame and pallid aspect lay,
As fair a thing as e'er was form'd of clay.

CXI.

How long in this damp trance young Juan lay
He knew not, for the earth was gone for him,
And Time had nothing more of night nor day
For his congealing blood and senses dim:
And how this heavy faintness pass'd away
He knew not, till each painful pulse and limb
And tingling vein, seem'd throbbing back to life,
For Death, though vanquish'd, still retired with strife.

CXII.

His eyes he open'd, shut, again unclosed,
For all was doubt and dizziness; he thought
He still was in the boat, and had but dozed,
And felt again with his despair o'erwrought,
And wish'd it death in which he had reposed;
And then once more his feelings back were brought,
And slowly by his swimming eyes was seen
A lovely female face of seventeen.

CXIII.

'Twas bending close o'er his, and the small mouth
Seem'd almost prying into his for breath;
And, chafing him, the soft warm hand of youth
Recall'd his answering spirits back from death;
And, bathing his chill temples, tried to soothe
Each pulse to animation, till, beneath
Its gentle touch and trembling care, a sigh
To these kind efforts made a low reply.

CXIV.

Then was the cordial pour'd, and mantle flung
Around his scarce-clad limbs; and the fair arm [hung;
Raised higher the faint head which o'er it
And her transparent cheek, all pure and warm,
Pillow'd his death-like forehead: then she wrung [storm;
His dewy curls, long drench'd by every
And watch'd with eagerness each throb that drew
A sigh from his heaved bosom—and hers too.

CXV.

And lifting him with care into the cave,
The gentle girl and her attendant—one
Young, yet her elder, and of brow less grave,
And more robust of figure—then begun
To kindle fire; and as the new flames gave
Light to the rocks that roof'd them, which the sun
Had never seen, the maid, or whatsoe'er
She was, appear'd, distinct, and tall, and fair.

CXVI.

Her brow was o'erhung with coins of gold,
That sparkled o'er the auburn of her hair,
Her clustering hair, whose longer locks were roll'd [were
In braids behind; and though her stature
Even of the highest for a female mould,
They nearly reach'd her heel; and in her air
There was a something which bespoke command,
As one who was a lady in the land.

CXVII.

Her hair, I said, was auburn; but her eyes
Were black as death, their lashes the same hue,
Of downcast length, in whose silk shadow lies
Deepest attraction: for when to the view
Forth from its raven fringe the full glance flies, [flew:
Ne'er with such force the swiftest arrow
'Tis as the snake late coil'd, who pours his length,
And hurls at once his venom and his strength.

CXVIII.

Her brow was white and low, her cheek's pure dye
Like twilight, rosy still with the set sun;
Short upper lip—sweet lips! that make us sigh
Ever to have seen such: for she was one
Fit for the model of a statuary,
(A race of mere impostors, when all's done—
I've seen much finer women, ripe and real,
Than all their nonsense of the stone ideal).

CXIX.

I'll tell you why I say so, for 'tis just
One should not rail without a decent cause:
There was an Irish lady, to whose bust
I ne'er saw justice done, and yet she was
A frequent model; and if e'er she must
Yield to stern Time and Nature's wrinkling laws,
They will destroy a face which mortal thought
Ne'er compass'd, nor less mortal chisel wrought.

CXX.

And such was she, the lady of the cave;
Her dress was very different from the Spanish,
Simpler, and yet of colors not so grave;
For, as you know, the Spanish women banish
Bright hues when out of doors, and yet, while wave
Around them (what I hope will never vanish)
The basquina and the mantilla, they
Seem at the same time mystical and gay.

CXXI.

But with our damsel this was not the case;
Her dress was many-colored, finely spun;
Her locks curl'd negligently round her face,
But through them gold and gems profusely shone;
Her girdle sparkled, and the richest lace
Flow'd in her veil, and many a precious stone
Flash'd on her little hand; but what was shocking, [stocking.
Her small snow feet had slippers, but no

CXXII.

The other female's dress was not unlike,
But of inferior materials: she
Had not so many ornaments to strike,
Her hair had silver only, bound to be
Her dowry; and her veil, in form alike, [free;
Was coarser; and her air, though firm, less
Her hair was thicker, but less long; her eyes
As black, but quicker, and of smaller size.

CXXIII.

And these two tended him, and cheer'd him both [attentions
With food and raiment, and those soft
Which are—(as I must own)—of female growth,
And have ten thousand delicate inventions:
They made a most superior mess of broth,
A thing which poesy but seldom mentions,
But the best dish that e'er was cook'd since Homer's
Achilles order'd dinner for new comers.

CXXIV.

I'll tell you who they were, this female pair,
Lest they should seem princesses in disguise;
Besides, I hate all mystery, and that air
Of clap-trap which your recent poets prize;
And so, in short, the girls they really were
They shall appear before your curious eyes,
Mistress and maid: the first was only daughter
Of an old man who lived upon the water.

CXXV.

A fisherman he had been in his youth,
And still a sort of fisherman was he;
But other speculations were, in sooth,
Added to his connection with the sea,
Perhaps not so respectable, in truth:
A little smuggling, and some piracy,

Left him at last the sole of many masters
Of an ill-gotten million of piastres.

CXXVI.

A fisher, therefore, was he—though of men,
Like Peter the apostle—and he fish'd [then,
For wandering merchant vessels now and
And sometimes caught as many as he wish'd;
The cargoes he confiscated, and gain [dish'd
He sought in the slave-market too, and
Full many a morsel for that Turkish trade,
By which, no doubt, a good deal may be made.

CXXVII.

He was a Greek, and on his isle had built
(One of the wild and smaller Cyclades)
A very handsome house from out his guilt,
And there he lived exceedingly at ease:
Heaven knows what cash he got, or blood he
A sad old fellow was he, if you please; [spilt,
But this I know, it was a spacious building,
Full of barbaric carving, paint, and gilding.

CXXVIII.

He had an only daughter, call'd Haidée,
The greatest heiress of the Eastern Isles;
Besides, so very beautiful was she,
Her dowry was as nothing to her smiles:
Still in her teens, and like a lovely tree,
She grew to womanhood, and between
Rejected several suitors, just to learn [whiles
How to accept a better in his turn.

CXXIX.

And walking out upon the beach, below
The cliff, towards sunset, on that day she
Insensible—not dead, but nearly so— [found,
Don Juan, almost famish'd and half
drown'd;
But being naked, she was shock'd, you know,
Yet deem'd herself in common pity bound,
As far as in her lay, "to take him in,
A stranger" dying, with so white a skin.

CXXX.

But taking him into her father's house
Was not exactly the best way to save,
But like conveying to the cat the mouse,
Or people in a trance into their grave;
Because the good old man had so much *vous*:
Unlike the honest Arab thieves so brave,
He would have hospitably cured the stranger,
And sold him instantly when out of danger.

CXXXI.

And therefore, with her maid, she thought it
(A virgin always on her maid relies) [best
To place him in the cave for present rest:
And when at last he open'd his black eyes,
Their charity increas'd about their guest;
And their compassion grew to such a size,
It open'd half the turnpike gates to heaven—
(St. Paul says, 'tis the toll which must be given.)

CXXXII.

They made a fire,—but such a fire as they
Upon the moment could contrive with such
Materials as were cast up round the bay,—
Some broken planks, and oars, that to the
touch
Were nearly tinder, since so long they lay
A mast was almost crumbled to a crutch:
But by God's grace, here wrecks were in such
plenty,
That there was fuel to have furnish'd twenty.

CXXXIII.

He had a bed of furs, and a pelisse,
For Haidée stripp'd her sables off to make
His couch; and that he might be more at ease,
And warm, in case by chance he should
They also gave a petticoat apiece, [awake,
She and her maid,—and promised by day-
To pay him a fresh visit, with a dish [break
For breakfast, of eggs, coffee, bread, and fish.

CXXXIV.

And thus they left him to his lone repose:
Juan slept like a top, or like the dead,
Who sleep at last, perhaps (God only knows),
Just for the present; and in his lull'd head
Not even a vision of his former woes
Throbb'd in accursed dreams, which some-
times spread
Unwelcome visions of our former years,
Till the eye, cheated, opens thick with tears.

CXXXV.

YoungJuan slept all dreamless:—but the maid,
Who smooth'd his pillow, as she left the den
Look'd back upon him, and a moment stay'd,
And turn'd, believing that he call'd again.
He slumber'd; yet she thought, at least she said
(The heart will slip even as the tongue and
pen),
He had pronounced her name—but she forgot
That at this moment Juan knew it not.

CXXXVI.

And pensive to her father's house she went,
Enjoining silence strict to Zoe, who
Better than her knew what, in fact, she meant,
She being wiser by a year or two:
A year or two's an age when rightly spent,
And Zoe spent hers as most women do,
In gaining all that useful sort of knowledge
Which is acquired in Nature's good old college.

CXXXVII.

The morn broke, and found Juan slumbering
still
Fast in his cave, and nothing clash'd upon
His rest; the rushing of the neighboring rill,
And the young beams of the excluded sun,
Troubled him not, and he might sleep his fill;
And need he had of slumber yet, for none
Had suffer'd more;—his hardships were com-
parative
To those related in my grandad's Narrative.*

* "The Narrative of the Honorable John Byron (Commodore in a late expedition round the world), containing an account of the great distresses suffered by himself and his companions on the coast of Patagonia, from the year 1740 till their arrival in England, 1746." This celebrated Narrative was published in 1768.

CXXXVIII.

Not so Haidée; she sadly toss'd and tumbled,
And started from her sleep, and, turning o'er, [stumbled,
Dream'd of a thousand wrecks o'er which she
And handsome corpses strew'd upon the shore;
And woke her maid so early that she grumbled,
And call'd her father's old slaves up, who swore [Greek—
In several oaths—Armenian, Turk, and
They knew not what to think of such a freak.

CXXXIX.

But up she got, and up she made them get,
With some pretence about the sun, that
Sweet skies just when he rises, or is set: [makes
And 'tis, no doubt, a sight to see, when breaks [wet
Bright Phœbus, while the mountains still are
With mist, and every bird with him awakes,
And night is flung off like a mourning suit
Worn for a husband—or some other brute.

CXL.

I say, the sun is a most glorious sight,
I've seen him rise full oft, indeed of late
I have sat up on purpose all the night,
Which hastens, as physicians say, one's fate;
And so all ye who would be in the right
In health and purse, begin your day to date
From day break, and when coffin'd at fourscore,
Engrave upon the plate, you rose at four.

CXLI.

And Haidée met the morning face to face;
Her own was freshest, though a feverish flush [race
Had dyed it with the headlong blood, whose
From heart to cheek is curb'd into a blush,
Like to a torrent which a mountain's base,
That overpowers some Alpine rivers rush,
Checks to a lake, whose waves in circles spread,
Or the Red Sea—but the sea is not red.

CXLII.

And down the cliff the island virgin came,
And near the cave her quick light footsteps drew, [flame,
While the sun smiled on her with his first
And young Aurora kiss'd her lips with dew,
Taking her for a sister; just the same [two,
Mistake you would have made on seeing the
Although the mortal, quite as fresh and fair,
Had all the advantage, too, of not being air.

CXLIII.

And when into the cavern Haidée stepp'd,
All timidly, yet rapidly, she saw
That like an infant Juan sweetly slept;
And then she stopp'd, and stood as if in awe
(For sleep is awful), and on tiptoe crept,
And wrapt him closer, lest the air, too raw,
Should reach his blood; then o'er him, still as death, [drawn breath.
Bent, with hush'd lips, that drank his scarce-

CXLIV.

And thus, like to an angel o'er the dying,
Who die in righteousness, she lean'd; and there
All tranquilly the shipwreck'd boy was lying,
As o'er him lay the calm and stirless air:
But Zoe the meantime some eggs was frying,
Since, after all, no doubt the youthful pair
Must breakfast, and betimes—lest they should ask it,
She drew out her provision from the basket.

CXLV.

She knew that the best feelings must have victual, [be;
And that a shipwreck'd youth would hungry
Besides, being less in love, she yawn'd a little,
And felt her veins chill'd by the neighboring sea;
And so she cook'd their breakfast to a tittle;
I can't say that she gave them any tea;
But there were eggs, fruit, coffee, bread, fish, honey,
With Scio wine—and all for love, not money.

CXLVI.

And Zoe, when the eggs were ready, and
The coffee made, would fain have waken'd Juan; [hand,
But Haidée stopp'd her with her quick small
And without word, a sign her finger drew on
Her lip, which Zoe needs must understand;
And the first breakfast spoilt, prepared a new one,
Because her mistress would not let her break
That sleep which seem'd as it would ne'er awake.

CXLVII.

For still he lay, and on his thin worn cheek
A purple hectic play'd, like dying day
On the snow-tops of distant hills; the streak
Of sufferance yet upon his forehead lay,
Where the blue veins look'd shadowy, shrunk, and weak; [spray,
And his black curls were dewy with the
Which weigh'd upon them yet, all damp and
Mix'd with the stony vapors of the vault. [salt,

CXLVIII.

And she bent o'er him, and he lay beneath,
Hush'd as the babe upon its mother's breast,
Droop'd as the willow when no winds can breathe,
Lull'd like the depth of ocean when at rest,
Fair as the crowning rose of the whole wreath,
Soft as the callow cygnet in its nest;
In short, he was a very pretty fellow, [low,
Although his woes had turn'd him rather yel-

CXLIX.

He woke, and gazed, and would have slept again,
But the fair face which met his eyes forbade
Those eyes to close, though weariness and pain
Had further sleep a further pleasure made:
For woman's face was never form'd in vain

For Juan, so that even when he pray'd,
He turn'd from grisly saints and martyrs hairy,
To the sweet portraits of the Virgin Mary.

CL.

And thus upon his elbow he arose,
And look'd upon the lady, in whose cheek
The pale contended with the purple rose,
As with an effort she began to speak:
Her eyes were eloquent, her words would pose,
Although she told him in good modern Greek,
With an Ionian accent low and sweet,
That he was faint, and must not talk, but eat.

CLI.

Now Juan could not understand a word,
Being no Grecian; but he had an ear,
And her voice was the warble of a bird,
So soft, so sweet, so delicately clear,
That finer, simpler music ne'er was heard;
That sort of sound we echo with a tear,
Without knowing why—an overpowering tone,
Whence melody descends as from a throne.

CLII.

And Juan gazed as one who is awoke
By a distant organ, doubting if he be
Not yet a dreamer, till the spell is broke
By the watchman, or some such reality,
Or by one's early valet's cursed knock:
At least it is a heavy sound to me,
Who like a morning slumber—for the night
Shows stars and women in a better light.

CLIII.

And Juan, too, was help'd out from his dream,
Or sleep, or whatsoe'er it was, by feeling
A most prodigious appetite: the steam
Of Zoe's cookery no doubt was stealing
Upon his senses, and the kindling beam
Of the new fire, which Zoe kept up, kneeling,
To stir her viands, made him quite awake,
And long for food, but chiefly a beefsteak.

CLIV.

But beef is rare within these oxless isles;
Goat's flesh there is, no doubt, and kid, and mutton;
And when a holiday upon them smiles,
A joint upon their barbarous spits they put
But this occurs but seldom, between whiles,
For some of these are rocks with scarce a hut on;
Others are fair and fertile, among which,
This, though not large, was one of the most rich.

CLV.

I say that beef is rare, and can't help thinking
That the old fable of the Minotaur—
From which our modern morals, rightly shrinking,
Condemn the royal lady's taste who wore
A cow's shape for a mask—was only (sinking
The allegory) a mere type, no more,
That Pasiphae promoted breeding cattle,
To make the Cretans bloodier in battle.

CLVI.

For we all know that English people are
Fed upon beef—I wont say much of beer,
Because 'tis liquor only, and being far
From this my subject, has no business here:
We know, too, they are very fond of war,
A pleasure—like all pleasures—rather dear;
So were the Cretans—from which I infer
That beef and battles both were owing to her.

CLVII.

But to resume. The languid Juan raised
His head upon his elbow, and he saw
A sight on which he had not lately gazed,
As all his latter meals had been quite raw,
Three or four things, for which the Lord be praised;
And, feeling still the famish'd vulture gnaw,
He fell upon whate'er was offer'd, like
A priest, a shark, an alderman, or pike.

CLVIII.

He ate, and he was well supplied; and she,
Who watch'd him like a mother, would have fed
Him past all bounds, because she smiled to see
Such appetite in one she had deem'd dead;
But Zoe, being older than Haidée,
Knew (by tradition, for she ne'er had read)
That famish'd people must be slowly nurst,
And fed by spoonfuls, else they always burst.

CLIX.

And so she took the liberty to state,
Rather by deeds than words, because the case
Was urgent, that the gentleman whose fate
Had made her mistress quit her bed to trace
The sea-shore at this hour, must leave his plate,
Unless he wish'd to die upon the place—
She snatch'd it, and refused another morsel,
Saying he had gorged enough to make a horse ill.

CLX.

Next they—he being naked, save a tatter'd
Pair of scarce decent trousers—went to work,
And in the fire his recent rags they scatter'd,
And dress'd him, for the present, like a Turk,
Or Greek—that is, although it not much matter'd,
Omitting turban, slippers, pistols, dirk:—
They furnish'd him, entire, except some stitches,
With a clean shirt, and very spacious breeches.

CLXI.

And then fair Haidée tried her tongue at speaking,
But not a word could Juan comprehend,
Although he listen'd so that the young Greek in
Her earnestness would ne'er have made an end,
And, as he interrupted not, went eking [end;
Her speech out to her *protégé* and friend,
Till pausing at the last her breath to take,
She saw he did not understand Romaic.

CLXII.

And then she had recourse to nods, and signs,
And smiles, and sparkles of the speaking eye,
And read (the only book she could) the lines
Of his fair face, and found, by sympathy,
The answer eloquent, where the soul shines,
And darts in one quick glance a long reply;
And thus in every look she saw exprest
A world of words, and things at which she guess'd.

CLXIII.

And now, by dint of fingers and of eyes,
And words repeated after her, he took
A lesson in her tongue: but by surmise,
No doubt, less of her language than her look;
As he who studies fervently the skies
Turns oftener to the stars than to his book;
Thus Juan learn'd his alpha beta better
From Haidée's glance than any graven letter.

CLXIV.

'Tis pleasing to be school'd in a strange tongue
By female lips and eyes—that is, I mean,
When both the teacher and the taught are young,
As was the case at least where I have been;
They smile so when one's right, and when one's wrong
They smile still more, and then there intervene
Pressure of hands, perhaps even a chaste
I learn'd the little that I know by this. [kiss;—

CLXV.

That is, some words of Spanish, Turk, and
Italian not at all, having no teachers: [Greek,
Much English I cannot pretend to speak,
Learning that language chiefly from its preachers,
Barrow, South, Tillotson, whom every week
I study, also Blair, the highest reachers
Of eloquence in piety and prose;—
I hate your poets, so read none of those.

CLXVI.

As for the ladies, I have nought to say: [ion,
A wanderer from the British world of fash-
Where I, like other "dogs, have had my day,"
Like other men, too, may have had my passion—
But that, like other things, has pass'd away,
And all her fools whom I *could* lay the lash on: [me,
Foes, friends, men, women, now are nought to
But dreams of what has been, no more to be.

CLXVII.

Return we to Don Juan. He begun
To hear new words, and to repeat them; but
Some feelings, universal as the sun,
Were such as could not in his breast be shut,
More than within the bosom of a nun:
He was in love—as you would be, no doubt,
With a young benefactress—so was she,
Just in the way we very often see.

CLXVIII.

And every day by daybreak—rather early
For Juan, who was somewhat fond of rest—
She came into the cave, but it was merely
To see her bird reposing in his nest;
And she would softly stir his locks so curly,
Without disturbing her yet slumbering guest,
Breathing all gently o'er his cheek and mouth,
As o'er a bed of roses the sweet south.

CLXIX.

And every morn his color freshlier came,
And every day help'd on his convalescence:
'Twas well, because health in the human frame
Is pleasant, besides being true love's essence,
For health and idleness to passion's flame [sons
Are oil and gunpowder; and some good les-
Are also learnt from Ceres and from Bacchus,
Without whom Venus will not long attack us.

CLXX.

While Venus fills the heart (without heart, really, [good),
Love, though good always, is not quite so
Ceres presents a plate of vermicelli— [blood—
For love must be sustain'd like flesh and
While Bacchus pours out wine, or hands a
Eggs, oysters, too, are amatory food; [jelly:
But who is their purveyor from above, [Jove.
Heaven knows—it may be Neptune, Pan, or

CLXXI.

When Juan woke, he found some good things ready,
A bath, a breakfast, and the finest eyes
That ever made a youthful heart less steady,
Besides her maid's, as pretty for their size.
But I have spoken of all this already—
And repetition's tiresome and unwise,—
Well—Juan, after bathing in the sea,
Came always back to coffee and Haidée.

CLXXII.

Both were so young, and one so innocent,
That bathing pass'd for nothing: Juan seem'd
To her, as 'twere, the kind of being sent,
Of whom these two years she had nightly dream'd,
A something to be loved, a creature meant
To be her happiness, and whom she deem'd
To render happy: all who joy would win
Must share it—Happiness was born a twin.

CLXXIII.

It was such pleasure to behold him, such
Enlargement of existence to partake
Nature with him, to thrill beneath his touch,
To watch him slumbering, and to see him
To live with him forever were too much: [wake:
But then the thought of parting made her quake.
He was her own, her ocean-treasure, cast
Like a rich wreck—her first love, and her last.

CLXXIV.

And thus a moon roll'd on, and fair Haidée
Paid daily visits to her boy, and took
Such plentiful precautions, that still he
Remain'd unknown within his craggy nook;
At last her father's prows put out to sea,
For certain merchantmen upon the look,
Not as of yore to carry off an Io,
But three Ragusan vessels bound for Scio.

CLXXV.

Then came her freedom, for she had no mother,
So that, her father being at sea, she was
Free as a married woman, or such other
Female, as where she likes may freely pass,
Without even the encumbrance of a brother,
The freest she that ever gazed on glass:
I speak of Christian lands in this comparison,
Where wives at least are seldom kept in garrison.

CLXXVI.

Now she prolong'd her visits and her talk
(For they must talk), and he had learnt to say
So much as to propose to take a walk;
For little had he wander'd since the day
On which, like a young flower snapp'd from the stalk,
Drooping and dewy on the beach he lay:
And thus they walk'd out in the afternoon,
And saw the sun set opposite the moon.

CLXXVII.

It was a wild and breaker-beaten coast,
With cliffs above, and a broad sandy shore,
Guarded by shoals and rocks as by a host,
With here and there a creek, whose aspect
A better welcome to the tempest-tost; [wore
And rarely ceased the haughty billows roar,
Save on the dead long summer days, which make
The outstretch'd ocean glitter like a lake.

CLXXVIII.

And the small ripple spilt upon the beach
Scarcely o'erpass'd the cream of your champagne, [reach,
When o'er the brim the sparkling bumpers
The spring-dew of the spirit! the heart's rain! [preach
Few things surpass old wine; and they may
Who please—the more because they preach in vain— [laughter,
Let us have wine and women, mirth and
Sermons and soda-water the day after.

CLXXIX.

Man, being reasonable, must get drunk;
The best of life is but intoxication:
Glory, the grape, love, gold, in these are sunk
The hopes of all men, and of every nation:
Without their sap, how branchless were the trunk
Of life's strange tree, so fruitful on occasion:
But to return—Get very drunk: and when
You wake with headache, you shall see what then.

CLXXX.

Ring for your valet—bid him quickly bring
Some hock and soda-water, then you'll know
A pleasure worthy Xerxes the great king:
For not the blest sherbet sublimed with snow,
Nor the first sparkle of the desert-spring,
Nor Burgundy in all its sunset glow,
After long travel, ennui, love, or slaughter,
Vie with that draught of hock and soda-water.

CLXXXI.

The coast—I think it was the coast that I
Was just describing—Yes, it *was* the coast—
Lay at this period quiet as the sky, [tost,
The sands untumbled, the blue waves un-
And all was stillness save the sea-bird's cry,
And dolphin's leap, and little billow crost
By some low rock or shelve, that made it fret
Against the boundary it scarcely wet.

CLXXXII.

And forth they wander'd, her sire being gone,
As I have said, upon an expedition;
And mother, brother, guardian, she had none,
Save Zoe, who, although with due precision
She waited on her daily with the sun,
Thought daily service was her only mission,
Bringing warm water, wreathing her long tresses,
And asking now and then for cast-off dresses.

CLXXXIII.

It was the cooling hour, just when the rounded
Red sun sinks down behind the azure hill,
Which then seems as if the whole earth it bounded, [still,
Circling all nature, hush'd, and dim, and
With the far mountain-crescent half-surrounded
On one side, and the deep sea calm and chill
Upon the other, and the rosy sky,
With one star sparkling through it like an eye.

CLXXXIV.

And thus they wander'd forth, and hand in hand,
Over the shining pebbles and the shells,
Glided along the smooth and harden'd sand,
And in the worn and wild receptacles
Work'd by the storms, yet work'd as it were plann'd,
In hollow halls, with sparry roofs and cells,
They turn'd to rest; and, each clasp'd by an arm,
Yielded to the deep twilight's purple charm.

CLXXXV.

They look'd up to the sky, whose floating glow
Spread like a rosy ocean, vast and bright;
They gazed upon the glittering sea below,
Whence the broad moon rose circling into [low,
sight;
They heard the waves splash, and the wind so
And saw each other's dark eyes darting light

Into each other—and, beholding this,
Their lips drew near, and clung into a kiss.

CLXXXVI.

A long, long kiss, a kiss of youth and love,
And beauty, all concentrating like rays
Into one focus, kindled from above:
Such kisses as belong to early days, [move,
Where heart, and soul, and sense, in concert
And the blood's lava, and the pulse a blaze,
Each kiss a heart-quake,—for a kiss's strength,
I think, it must be reckon'd by its length.

CLXXXVII.

By length I mean duration; theirs endured
Heaven knows how long—no doubt they never reckon'd;
And if they had, they could not have secured
The sum of their sensations to a second:
They had not spoken; but they felt allured,
As if their souls and lips each other beckon'd,
Which, being join'd, like swarming bees they clung— [honey sprung.
Their hearts the flowers from whence the

CLXXXVIII.

They were alone, but not alone as they
Who shut in chambers think it loneliness;
The silent ocean, and the starlight bay, [less,
The twilight glow, which momently grew
The voiceless sands, and dropping caves, that lay [press,
Around them, made them to each other
As if there were no life beneath the sky,
Save theirs, and that their life could never die.

CLXXXIX.

They fear'd no eyes nor ears on that lone beach, [were
They felt no terrors from the night; they
All in all to each other; though their speech
Was broken words, they *thought* a language there; [teach
And all the burning tongues the passions
Found in one sigh the best interpreter
Of nature's oracle—first love,—that all [fall.
Which Eve has left her daughters since her

CXC.

Haidée spoke not of scruples, ask'd no vows,
Nor offer'd any; she had never heard
Of plight and promises to be a spouse,
Or perils by a loving maid incurr'd;
She was all which pure ignorance allows, [bird;
And flew to her young mate like a young
And, never having dreamt of falsehood, she
Had not one word to say of constancy.

CXCI.

She loved, and was beloved—she adored,
And she was worshipp'd; after nature's fashion,
Their intense souls, into each other pour'd,
If souls could die, had perish'd in that passion—
But by degrees their senses were restored,
Again to be o'ercome, again to dash on;
And, beating 'gainst *his* bosom, Haidée's heart
Felt as if never more to beat apart.

CXCII.

Alas! they were so young, so beautiful,
So lonely, loving, helpless, and the hour
Was that in which the heart is always full,
And, having o'er itself no further power,
Prompts deeds eternity cannot annul,
But pays off moments in an endless shower
Of hell-fire—all prepared for people giving
Pleasure or pain to one another living.

CXCIII.

Alas for Juan and Haidée! they were
So loving and so lovely—till then never,
Excepting our first parents, such a pair
Had run the risk of being damn'd forever:
And Haidée, being devout as well as fair,
Had doubtless heard about the Stygian
And hell, and purgatory—but forgot [river,
Just in the very crisis she should not.

CXCIV.

They look upon each other, and their eyes
Gleam in the moonlight; and her white arms clasps
Round Juan's head, and his around hers lies
Half buried in the tresses which it grasps:
She sits upon his knee, and drinks his sighs,
He hers, until they end in broken gasps;
And thus they form a group that's quite an-
Half naked, loving, natural, and Greek. [tique,

CXCV.

And when those deep and burning moments pass'd,
And Juan sank to sleep within her arms,
She slept not, but all tenderly, though fast,
Sustain'd his head upon her bosom's charms:
And now and then her eye to heaven is cast,
And then on the pale cheek her breast now warms,
Pillow'd on her o'erflowing heart, which pants
With all it granted, and with all it grants.

CXCVI.

An infant when it gazes on the light, [breast,
A child the moment when it drains the
A devotee when soars the Host in sight,
An Arab with a stranger for a guest,
A sailor when the prize has struck in fight,
A miser filling his most hoarded chest, [ing,
Feel rapture; but not such true joy are reap-
As they who watch o'er what they love while sleeping.

CXCVII.

For there it lies, so tranquil, so beloved:
All that it hath of life with us is living;
So gentle, stirless, helpless, and unmoved,
And all unconscious of the joy 'tis giving.
All it hath felt, inflicted, pass'd, and proved,
Hush'd into depths beyond the watcher's diving:

There lies the thing we love, with all its errors,
And all its charms, like death without its terrors.

CXCVIII.

The lady watch'd her lover—and that hour
Of Love's, and Night's, and Ocean's solitude,
O'erflow'd her soul with their united power;
Amidst the barren sand and rocks so rude,
She and her wave-worn love had made their bower
Where nought upon their passion could intrude;
And all the stars that crowded the blue space
Saw nothing happier than her glowing face.

CXCIX.

Alas, the love of women! it is known
To be a lovely and a fearful thing;
For all of theirs upon that die is thrown,
And if 'tis lost, life hath no more to bring
To them but mockeries of the past alone,
And their revenge is as the tiger's spring,
Deadly, and quick, and crushing; yet as real
Torture is theirs—what they inflict they feel.

CC.

They are right: for man to man so oft unjust,
Is always so to women: one sole bond
Awaits them, treachery is all their trust:
Taught to conceal, their bursting hearts despond
Over their idol, till some wealthier lust
Buys them in marriage—and what rests beyond?
A thankless husband, next a faithless lover,
Then dressing, nursing, praying, and all's over.

CCI.

Some take a lover, some take drams or prayers,
Some mind their household, others dissipation:
Some run away, and but exchange their cares,
Losing the advantage of a virtuous station;
Few changes e'er can better their affairs,
Theirs being an unnatural situation,
From the dull palace to the dirty hovel;
Some play the devil, and then write a novel.

CCII.

Haidée was Nature's bride, and knew not this;
Haidée was Passion's child, born where the sun
Showers triple light, and scorches even the kiss
Of his gazelle-eyed daughters; she was one
Made but to love, to feel that she was his
Who was her chosen: what was said or done
Elsewhere was nothing.—She had nought to fear,
Hope, care, nor love beyond—her heart beat here.

CCIII.

And oh! that quickening of the heart, that beat!
How much it costs us! yet each rising throb
Is in its cause as its effect so sweet,
That Wisdom, ever on the watch to rob
Joy of its alchemy, and to repeat
Fine truths; even Conscience, too, has a tough job
To make us understand each good old maxim,
So good—I wonder Castlereagh don't tax 'em.

CCIV.

And now 'twas done—on the lone shore were shed
plighted
Their hearts; the stars, their nuptial torches,
Beauty upon the beautiful they plighted:
Ocean their witness, and the cave their bed,
By their own feelings hallow'd and united,
Their priest was Solitude, and they were wed:
And they were happy, for to their young eyes
Each was an angel, and earth paradise.

CCV.

Oh, Love, of whom great Cæsar was the suitor,
Titus the master, Antony the slave;
Horace, Catullus, scholars, Ovid tutor,
Sappho the sage blue-stocking, in whose grave
All those may leap who rather would be neuter—
(Leucadia's rock still overlooks the wave)—
Oh, Love! thou art the very good of evil;
For, after all, we cannot call thee devil.

CCVI.

Thou mak'st the chaste connubial state precarious,
And jestest with the brows of mightiest men;
Cæsar and Pompey, Mahomet, Belisarius,
Have much employ'd the muse of history's pen:
Their lives and fortunes were extremely various,
Such worthies Time will never see again;
Yet to these four in three things the same luck holds,
They all were heroes, conquerors, and cuckolds.

CCVII.

Thou mak'st philosophers; there's Epicurus
And Aristippus, a material crew!
Who to immoral courses would allure us
By theories quite practicable, too;
If only from the devil they would ensure us,
How pleasant were the maxim (not quite new),
"Eat, drink, and love; what can the rest avail us?"
So said the royal sage Sardanapalus.

CCVIII.

But Juan! had he quite forgotten Julia?
And should he have forgotten her so soon?
I can't but say it seems to me most truly a
Perplexing question, but no doubt the moon
Does these things for us, and whenever newly a
Strong palpitation rises, 'tis her boon,
Else how the devil is it that fresh features
Have such a charm for us poor human creatures?

CCIX.

I hate inconstancy; I loathe, detest,
Abhor, condemn, abjure, the mortal made
Of such quicksilver clay, that in his breast
No permanent foundation can be laid:

Love, constant love, has been my constant guest:
And yet last night, being at a masquerade,
I saw the prettiest creature, fresh from Milan,
Which gave me some sensations like a villain.

CCX.

But soon Philosophy came to my aid, [tie!"
And whisper'd, "Think of every sacred
"I will, my dear Philosophy!" I said,
"But then her teeth, and then, O Heaven,
I'll just inquire if she be wife or maid, [her eye!
Or neither—out of curiosity."
"Stop!" cried Philosophy, with air so Grecian,
(Though she was masqued then as a fair Venetian).

CCXI.

"Stop!" So I stopped.—But to return: that which
Men call inconstancy is nothing more
Than admiration, due where Nature's rich
Profusion with young beauty covers o'er
Some favor'd object: and as in the niche
A lovely statue we almost adore,
This sort of admiration of the real
Is but a heightening of the *beau ideal*.

CCXII.

'Tis the perception of the beautiful,
A fine extension of the faculties,
Platonic, universal, wonderful, [the skies,
Drawn from the stars, and filter'd through
Without which life would be extremely dull;
In short, it is the use of our own eyes,
With one or two small senses added, just
To hint that flesh is form'd of fiery dust.

CCXIII.

Yet 'tis a painful feeling, and unwilling,
For surely if we always could perceive
In the same object graces quite as killing
As when she rose upon us like an Eve, [ling
'Twould save us many a heartache, many a shil-
(For we must get them anyhow, or grieve);
Whereas, if one sole lady pleased forever,
How pleasant for the heart as well as liver!

CCXIV.

The heart is like the sky, a part of heaven,
But changes night and day, too, like the sky:
Now o'er it clouds and thunder must be driven,
And darkness and destruction as on high:
But when it hath been scorch'd, and pierced, and riven,
Its storms expire in water-drops; the eye
Pours forth at last the heart's blood turn'd to tears,
Which make the English climate of our years.

CCXV.

The liver is the lazaret of bile,
But very rarely executes its function;
For the first passion stays there such a while,
That all the rest creep in and form a junc-
Like knots of vipers on a dunghill's soil, [tion,
Rage, fear, hate, jealousy, revenge, compunction, [trail,
So that all mischiefs spring up from this en-
Like earthquakes from the hidden fire call'd "central."

CCXVI.

In the meantime, without proceeding more
In this anatomy, I've finish'd now
Two hundred and odd stanzas as before,
That being about the number I'll allow
Each canto of the twelve, or twenty-four;
And laying down my pen, I make my bow,
Leaving Don Juan and Haidée to plead
For them and theirs with all who deign to read.

CANTO THE THIRD.

1821.

I.

Hail, Muse! *et cetera*.—We left Juan sleeping,
Pillow'd upon a fair and happy breast, [ing,
And watch'd by eyes that never yet knew weep-
And loved by a young heart, too deeply blest
To feel the poison through her spirit creeping,
Or know who rested there, a foe to rest
Had soil'd the current of her sinless years,
And turn'd her pure heart's purest blood to tears!

II.

Oh, Love! what is it, in this world of ours,
Which makes it fatal to be loved? Ah! why
With cypress branches hast thou wreathed thy bowers,
And made thy best interpreter a sigh?
As those who dote on odors pluck the flowers,
And place them on their breast—but place to die—
Thus the frail beings we would fondly cherish,
Are laid within our bosoms but to perish.

III.

In her first passion, woman loves her lover;
In all the others all she loves is love,
Which grows a habit she can ne'er get over
And fits her loosely—like an easy glove,
As you may find, whene'er you like to prove her.
One man alone at first her heart can move;
She then prefers him in the plural number,
Not finding that the additions much encumber.

IV.

I know not if the fault be men's or theirs;
But one thing's pretty sure: a woman planted—
(Unless at once she plunge for life in prayers)—
After a decent time must be gallanted:
Although, no doubt, her first of love affairs

Is that to which her heart is wholly granted;
Yet there are some, they say, who have had *none*,
But those who have ne'er end with only *one*.

V.

'Tis melancholy and a fearful sign
Of human frailty, folly, also crime,
That love and marriage rarely can combine,
Although they both are born in the same clime.
Marriage from love, like vinegar from wine—
A sad, sour, sober beverage—by time
Is sharpen'd from its high celestial flavor,
Down to a very homely household savor.

VI.

There's something of antipathy, as 'twere,
Between their present and their future state;
A kind of flattery that's hardly fair
Is used until the truth arrives too late—
Yet what can people do, except despair?
The same things change their names at such a rate;
For instance—passion in a lover's glorious,
But in a husband is pronounced uxorious.

VII.

Men grow ashamed of being so very fond;
They sometimes also get a little tired
(But that, of course, is rare), and then despond:
The same things cannot always be admired,
Yet 'tis so "nominated in the bond,"
That both are tied till one shall have expired.
Sad thought! to lose the spouse that was adoring
Our days, and put one's servants into mourning.

VIII.

There's doubtless something in domestic doings,
Which forms, in fact, true love's antithesis;
Romances paint at full length people's wooings,
But only give a bust of marriages:
For no one cares for matrimonial cooings,
There's nothing wrong in a connubial kiss.
Think you, if Laura had been Petrarch's wife,
He would have written sonnets all his life?

IX.

All tragedies are finish'd by a death;
All comedies are ended by a marriage:
The future states of both are left to faith,
For authors fear description might disparage
The worlds to come of both, or fall beneath,
And then both worlds would punish their miscarriage;
So leaving each their priest and prayer-book
They say no more of Death or of the Lady.

X.

The only two that in my recollection
Have sung of heaven and hell, or marriage,
Dante* and Milton,† and of both the affection
Was hapless in their nuptials, for some bar
Of fault or temper ruin'd the connection
(Such things, in fact, it don't ask much to spar);
But Dante's Beatrice and Milton's Eve
Were not drawn from their spouses, you conceive.

XI.

Some persons say that Dante meant theology
By Beatrice, and not a mistress—I,
Although my opinion may require apology,
Deem this a commentator's phantasy;
Unless, indeed, it was from his own knowledge
Decided thus, and show'd good reason why:
I think that Dante's more abstruse ecstatics
Meant to personify the mathematics.

XII.

Haidée and Juan were not married; but
The fault was theirs, not mine; it is not fair,
Chaste reader, then, in any way to put
The blame on me, unless you wish they were;
Then if you'd have them wedded, please to shut
The book which treats of this erroneous pair,
Before the consequences grow too awful;
'Tis dangerous to read of loves unlawful.

XIII.

Yet they were happy—happy in the illicit
Indulgence of their innocent desires;
But more imprudent grown with every visit,
Haidée forgot the island was her sire's;
When we have what we like, 'tis hard to miss it,
At least in the beginning, ere one tires:
Thus she came often, not a moment losing,
Whilst her piratical papa was cruising.

XIV.

Let not his mode of raising cash seem strange,
Although he fleeced the flags of every nation;
For into a prime minister but change
His title, and 'tis nothing but taxation;
But he, more modest, took a humbler range
Of life, and in an honester vocation
Pursued o'er the high seas his watery journey,
And merely practised as a sea-attorney.

XV.

The good old gentleman had been detain'd
By winds and waves, and some important captures,
And, in the hope of more, at sea remain'd,
Although a squall or two had damp'd his raptures,
By swamping one of the prizes; he had chain'd
His prisoners, dividing them like chapters,
In number'd lots; they all had cuffs and collars;
And averaged each from ten to a hundred dollars.

XVI.

Some he disposed of off Cape Matapan,
Among his friends the Mainots: some he sold
To his Tunis correspondents, save one man
Toss'd overboard, unsaleable (being old);
The rest—save here and there some richer one,

* Dante calls his wife, in the "Inferno," "La fiera moglie."

† Milton's first wife ran away from him within the first month. If she had not, what would John Milton have done?

Reserved for future ransom—in the hold,
Were link'd alike; as for the common people,
Had a large order from the Dey of Tripoli. [he

XVII.

The merchandise was served in the same way,
Pieced out for different marts in the Levant,
Except some certain portions of the prey,
Light classic articles of female want,
French stuffs, lace, tweezers, toothpicks, tea-pot, tray,
Guitars and castanets from Alicant,
All which selected from the spoil he gathers,
Robb'd for his daughter by the best of fathers.

XVIII.

A monkey, a Dutch mastiff, a mackaw,
Two parrots, with a Persian cat and kittens,
He chose from several animals he saw—
A terrier, too, which once had been a Brit-
Who dying on the coast of Ithaca, [on's,
The peasants gave the poor dumb thing a pittance; [weather,
These to secure in this strong blowing
He caged in one huge hamper all together.

XIX.

Then having settled his marine affairs,
Despatching single cruisers here and there,
His vessel having need of some repairs, [fair
He shaped his course to where his daughter
Continued still her hospitable cares;
But that part of the coast being shoal and bare, [mile,
And rough with reefs which ran out many a
His port lay on the other side o' the isle.

XX.

And there he went ashore without delay,
Having no custom-house nor quarantine
To ask him awkward questions on the way,
About the time and place where he had been;
He left his ship to be hove down next day,
With orders to the people to careen;
So that all hands were busy beyond measure,
In getting out goods, ballast, guns, and treasure.

XXI.

Arriving at the summit of a hill [home,
Which overlook'd the white walls of his
He stopp'd—What singular emotions fill
Their bosoms who have been induced to roam!
With fluttering doubts if all be well or ill—
With love for many, and with fears for some;
All feelings which o'erleap the years long lost,
And bring our hearts back to their starting-post.

XXII.

The approach of home to husbands and to
After long traveling by land or water, [sires,
Most naturally some small doubt inspires—
A female family's a serious matter; [mires—
(None trusts the sex more, or so much ad-
But they hate flattery, so I never flatter;)
Wives in their husbands' absences grow subtler, [ler.
And daughters sometimes run off with the but-

XXIII.

An honest gentleman, at his return,
May not have the good fortune of Ulysses;
Not all lone matrons for their husbands mourn,
Or show the same dislike to suitors' kisses;
The odds are that he finds a handsome urn
To his memory—and two or three young misses [riches—
Born to some friend, who holds his wife and
And that *his* Argus bites him by—the breeches.

XXIV.

If single, probably his plighted fair
Has in his absence wedded some rich miser;
But all the better, for the happy pair
May quarrel, and, the lady growing wiser,
He may resume his amatory care
As cavalier servente, or despise her;
And that his sorrow may not be a dumb one,
Write odes on the Inconstancy of Woman.

XXV.

And oh! ye gentlemen who have already
Some chaste *liaison* of the kind—I mean
An honest friendship with a married lady—
The only thing of this sort ever seen
To last—of all connections the most steady,
And the true Hymen (the first's but a screen)—
Yet, for all that, keep not too long away,
I've known the absent wrong'd four times a day.

XXVI.

Lambro, our sea-solicitor, who had
Much less experience of dry land than ocean;
On seeing his own chimney-smoke, felt glad;
But not knowing metaphysics, had no no-
Of the true reason of his not being sad, [tion
Or that of any other strong emotion;
He loved his child, and would have wept the loss of her, [osopher.
But knew the cause no more than a phil-

XXVII.

He saw his white walls shining in the sun,
His garden trees all shadowy and green;
He heard his rivulet's light bubbling run,
The distant dog-bark; and perceived, between
The umbrage of the wood, so cool and dun,
The moving figures, and the sparkling sheen
Of arms (in the East all arm)—and various
Of color'd garbs, as bright as butterflies. [dyes

XXVIII.

And as the spot where they appear he nears,
Surprised at these unwonted signs of idling,
He hears—alas! no music of the spheres,
But an unhallow'd earthly sound of fiddling!
A melody which made him doubt his ears,
The cause being past his guessing or unriddling;

A pipe, too, and a drum, and shortly after,
A most unoriental roar of laughter.

XXIX.

And still more nearly to the place advancing,
Descending rather quickly the declivity,
Through the waved branches, o'er the green sward glancing,
'Midst other indications of festivity,
Seeing a troop of his domestics dancing
Like dervises, who turn as on a pivot, he
Perceived it was the Pyrrhic dance so martial,
To which the Levantines are very partial.

XXX.

And, further on, a troop of Grecian girls,
The first and tallest her white kerchief waving,
Were strung together like a row of pearls,
Link'd hand in hand, and dancing: each too having
Down her white neck long floating auburn curls—
(The least of which would set ten poets raving):
Their leader sang—and bounded to her song,
With choral step and voice, the virgin throng.

XXXI.

And here, assembled cross-legg'd round their trays,
Small social parties just began to dine;
Pilaus and meats of all sorts met the gaze,
And flasks of Samian and of Chian wine,
And sherbet cooling in the porous vase:
Above them their dessert grew on its vine;
The orange and pomegranate, nodding o'er,
Dropp'd in their laps, scarce pluck'd, their mellow store.

XXXII.

A band of children, round a snow-white ram,
There wreathe his venerable horns with flowers;
While, peaceful as if still an unwean'd lamb,
The patriarch of the flock all gently cowers
His sober head, majestically tame,
Or eats from out the palm, or playful lowers
His brow, as if in act to butt, and then, again.
Yielding to their small hands, draws back

XXXIII.

Their classical profiles and glittering dresses,
Their large black eyes and soft seraphic cheeks,
Crimson as cleft pomegranates, their long tresses,
The gesture which enchants, the eye that speaks,
The innocence which happy childhood blesses,
Made quite a picture of these little Greeks:
So that the philosophical beholder grow older.
Sigh'd for their sakes, that they should e'er

XXXIV.

Afar, a dwarf buffoon stood telling tales
To a sedate grey circle of old smokers,
Of secret treasures found in hidden vales,
Of wonderful replies from Arab jokers,
Of charms to make good gold and cure bad ails,
Of rocks bewitch'd that open to the knockers,
Of magic ladies, who, by one sole act, fact).
Transform'd their lords to beasts (but that's a

XXXV.

Here was no lack of innocent diversion
For the imagination or the senses,
Song, dance, wine, music, stories from the Persian,
All pretty pastimes in which no offence is:
But Lambro saw all these things with aversion,
Perceiving in his absence such expenses,
Dreading that climax of all human ills,
The inflammation of his weekly bills.

XXXVI.

Ah! what is man? what perils still environ
The happiest mortals, even after dinner—
A day of gold from out an age of iron,
Is all that life allows the luckiest sinner:
Pleasure (whene'er she sings, at least) 's a siren
That lures to flay alive the young beginner:
Lambro's reception at his people's banquet
Was such as fire accords to a wet blanket.

XXXVII.

He—being a man who seldom used a word
Too much, and wishing gladly to surprise
(In general he surprised men with his sword)
His daughter—had not sent before to advise
Of his arrival, so that no one stirr'd;
And long he paused to re-assure his eyes;
In fact, much more astonish'd than delighted,
To find so much good company invited.

XXXVIII.

He did not know (alas! how men will lie)
That a report (especially the Greeks)
Avouch'd his death (such people never die),
And put his house in mourning several weeks—
But now their eyes and also lips were dry:
The bloom, too, had return'd to Haidée's cheeks.
Her tears, too, being return'd unto their fount,
She now kept house upon her own account.

XXXIX.

Hence all this rice, meat, dancing, wine, and fiddling,
Which turn'd the isle into a place of pleasure:
The servants all were getting drunk or idling,
A life which made them happy beyond measure.
Her father's hospitality seem'd middling,
Compared with what Haidée did with his treasure:
'Twas wonderful how things went on improving,
While she had not one hour to spare from loving.

XL.

Perhaps you think, in stumbling on this feast,
He flew into a passion, and in fact
There was no mighty reason to be pleased;

Perhaps you prophesy some sudden act,
The whip, the rack, or dungeon at the least,
To teach his people to be more exact;
And that, proceeding at a very high rate,
He show'd the royal *penchants* of a pirate.

XLI.

You're wrong—He was the mildest manner'd man
That ever scuttled ship or cut a throat;
With such true breeding of a gentleman,
You never could divine his real thought;
No courtier could, and scarcely woman can
Gird more deceit within a petticoat;
Pity he loved adventurous life's variety,
He was so great a loss to good society.

XLII.

Advancing to the nearest dinner-tray,
Tapping the shoulder of the highest guest,
With a peculiar smile, which, by the way,
Boded no good, whatever it express'd,
He ask'd the meaning of this holiday.
The vinous Greek, to whom he had address'd
His question, much too merry to divine
The questioner, fill'd up a glass of wine,

XLIII.

And, without turning his facetious head,
Over his shoulder, with a Bacchant air,
Presented the o'erflowing cup, and said,
"Talking's dry work, I have no time to spare."
A second hiccup'd, "Our old master's dead;
You'd better ask our mistress who's his heir." [tress!—pooh!—
"Our mistress!" quoth a third, "Our mis-
You mean our master—not the old, but new."

XLIV.

These rascals, being new comers, knew not whom
They thus address'd—and Lambro's visage
And o'er his eye a momentary gloom [fell—
Pass'd; but he strove quite courteously to quell
The expression, and endeavoring to resume
His smile, requested one of them to tell
The name and quality of his new patron,
Who seem'd to have turn'd Haidée into a matron.

XLV.

"I know not," quoth the fellow, "who or what
He is, or whence he came—and little care;
But this I know, that this roast capon's fat,
And that good wine ne'er wash'd down better fare:
And if you are not satisfied with that,
Direct your questions to my neighbor there
He'll answer all for better or for worse,
For none likes more to hear himself converse." *

* "Rispone allor" Margatte, a dir tel tosto
Io non credo piu al nero ch' all' azzurro:
Ma nel cappone, e lesso, o vuogli arrosto
E credo alcuna volta anco nel burro:
Nella cervigia, e quando io n' ho nel mosto,
E molto piu nell' espro che il mangurro;
Ma sopra tutto nel buon vino ho fede,
E credo che sia salvo chi gli crede."
PULCI, "Morgante Maggiore," c. 18, s. 151.

XLVI.

I said that Lambro was a man of patience,
And certainly he show'd the best of breeding, [nations,
Which scarce even France, the paragon of
E'er saw her most polite of sons exceeding.
He bore these sneers against his near relations,
His own anxiety, his heart, too, bleeding,
The insults, too, of every servile glutton,
Who all the time was eating up his mutton.

XLVII.

Now in a person used to much command—
To bid men come, and go, and come again—
To see his orders done, too, out of hand—
Whether the word was death, or but the chain—
It may seem strange to find his manners bland;
Yet such things are, which I cannot explain,
Though doubtless he who can command himself
Is good to govern—almost as a Guelph.

XLVIII.

Not that he was not sometimes rash or so,
But never in his real and serious mood;
Then calm, concentrated, and still, and slow,
He lay coil'd, like the boa in the wood:
With him it never was a word and blow,
His angry word once o'er, he shed no blood:
But in his silence there was much to rue,
And his *one* blow left little work for *two*.

XLIX.

He ask'd no further questions, and proceeded
On to the house, but by a private way,
So that the few who met him hardly heeded,
So little they expected him that day;
If love paternal in his bosom pleaded
For Haidée's sake, is more than I can say,
But certainly to one deem'd dead, returning,
This revel seem'd a curious mode of mourning.

L.

If all the dead could now return to life, [many;
(Which God forbid!) or some, or a great
For instance, if a husband or his wife
(Nuptial examples are as good as any),
No doubt, whate'er might be their former strife, [rainy—
The present weather would be much more
Tears shed into the grave of the connection
Would share most probably its resurrection.

LI.

He enter'd in the house no more his home,
A thing to human feelings the most trying,
And harder for the heart to overcome, [dying:
Perhaps, than even the mental pangs of
To find our hearthstone turn'd into a tomb,
And round its once warm precincts palely lying

The ashes of our hopes, is a deep grief
Beyond a single gentleman's belief.

LII.

He enter'd in the house—his home no more;
For without hearts there is no home,—and
The solitude of passing his own door [felt
Without a welcome: *there* he long had dwelt;
There his few peaceful days Time had swept
o'er;
There his warm bosom and keen eye would
Over the innocence of that sweet child, [melt
His only shrine of feelings undefiled.

LIII.

He was a man of a strange temperament,
Of mild demeanor, though of savage mood,
Moderate in all his habits, and content
With temperance in pleasure, as in food,
Quick to perceive, and strong to bear, and
meant
For something better, if not wholly good;
His country's wrongs, and his despair to save
her,
Had stung him from a slave to an enslaver.

LIV.

The love of power, and rapid gain of gold,
The hardness by long habitude produced,
The dangerous life in which he had grown old,
The mercy he had granted oft abused,
The sights he was accustom'd to behold,
The wild seas, and wild men with whom he
cruised,
Had cost his enemies a long repentance,
And made him a good friend, but bad acquaintance.

LV.

But something of the spirit of old Greece
Flash'd o'er his soul a few heroic rays,
Such as lit onward to the Golden Fleece
His predecessors in the Colchian days;
'Tis true he had no ardent love for peace—
Alas! his country show'd no path to praise:
Hate to the world and war with every nation
He waged, in vengeance of her degradation.

LVI.

Still o'er his mind the influence of the clime
Shed its Ionian elegance, which show'd
Its power unconsciously full many a time—
A taste seen in the choice of his abode,
A love of music and of scenes sublime,
A pleasure in the gentle stream that flow'd
Past him in crystal, and a joy in flowers,
Bedew'd his spirit in his calmer hours.

LVII.

But whatsoe'er he had of love, reposed
On that beloved daughter; she had been
The only thing which kept his heart unclosed
Amidst the savage deeds he had done and
A lonely, pure affection unopposed: [seen;
There wanted but the loss of this to wean
His feelings from all milk of human kindness,
And turn him, like the Cyclops, mad with
blindness.

LVIII.

The cubless tigress, in her jungle raging,
Is dreadful to the shepherd and the flock;
The ocean, when its yeasty war is waging,
Is awful to the vessel near the rock;
But violent things will sooner bear assuaging,
Their fury being spent by its own shock,
Than the stern, single, deep, and wordless ire
Of a strong human heart, and in a sire.

LIX.

It is a hard, although a common case,
To find our children running restive—they
In whom our brightest days we would retrace,
Our little selves re-form'd in finer clay,
Just as old age is creeping on apace,
And clouds come o'er the sunset of our day,
They kindly leave us, though not quite alone,
But in good company—the gout or stone.

LX.

Yet a fine family is a fine thing
(Provided they don't come in after dinner):
'Tis beautiful to see a matron bring [her);
Her children up (if nursing them don't thin
Like cherubs round an altar-piece, they cling
To the fire-side (a sight to touch a sinner).
A lady with her daughters or her nieces
Shine like a guinea and seven shilling pieces.

LXI.

Old Lambro pass'd unseen a private gate,
And stood within his hall at eventide;
Meantime the lady and her lover sate
At wassail in their beauty and their pride;
An ivory inlaid table spread with state
Before them, and fair slaves on every side:
Gems, gold, and silver form'd the service
mostly,
Mother-of-pearl and coral the less costly.

LXII.

The dinner made about a hundred dishes;
Lamb and pistachio nuts—in short, all
meats, [fishes
And saffron soups, and sweetbreads; and the
Were of the finest that e'er flounced in nets,
Drest to a Sybarite's most pamper'd wishes:
The beverage was various sherbets
Of raisin, orange, and pomegranate juice,
Squeezed through the rind, which makes it
best for use.

LXIII.

These were ranged round, each in its crystal
ewer, [repast,
And fruits and date-bread loaves closed the
And Mocha's berry, from Arabia pure,
In small fine China cups, came in at last;
Gold cups of filigree, made to secure [placed,
The hand from burning underneath them
Cloves, cinnamon, and saffron too were boil'd
Up with the coffee, which (I think) they spoil'd.

LXIV.

The hangings of the room were tapestry, made
Of velvet panels, each of different hue,

And thick with damask flowers of silk inlaid;
And round them ran a yellow border too;
The upper border, richly wrought, display'd,
Embroider'd delicately o'er with blue,
Soft Persian sentences, in lilac letters,
From poets, or the moralists their betters.

LXV.

These Oriental writings on the wall,
Quite common in those countries, are a kind
Of monitors adapted to recall, [mind
Like skulls at Memphian banquets, to the
The words which shook Belshazzar in his hall,
And took his kingdom from him; you will find, [treasure,
Though sages may pour out their wisdom's
There is no sterner moralist than Pleasure.

LXVI.

A beauty at the season's close grown hectic,
A genius who has drunk himself to death,
A rake turn'd methodistic, or Eclectic—
(For that's the name they like to pray beneath)—
But most, an alderman struck apoplectic,
Are things that really take away the breath—
And show that late hours, wine, and love, are able
To do not much less damage than the table.

LXVII.

Haidée and Juan carpeted their feet
On crimson satin, border'd with pale blue;
Their sofa occupied three parts complete
Of the apartment, and appear'd quite new;
The velvet cushions (for a throne more meet)— [grew
Were scarlet, from whose glowing centre
A sun emboss'd in gold, whose rays of tissue,
Meridian-like, were seen all light to issue.

LXVIII.

Crystal and marble, plate and porcelain,
Had done their work of splendor; Indian mats [stain,
And Persian carpets, which the heart bled to
Over the floors were spread; gazelles and cats, [that gain
And dwarfs and blacks, and such like things,
Their bread as ministers and favorites—that's
To say, by degradation),—mingled there
As plentiful as in a court or fair.

LXIX.

There was no want of lofty mirrors, and
The tables, most of ebony inlaid
With mother-of-pearl or ivory, stood at hand,
Or were of tortoise-shell or rare woods made,
Fretted with gold or silver:—by command,
The greater part of these were ready spread
With viands and sherbets in ice—and wine—
Kept for all comers, at all hours to dine.

LXX.

Of all the dresses I select Haidée's: [yellow;
She wore two jellicks—one was of pale
Of azure, pink, and white, was her chemise—
'Neath which her breast heaved like a little billow:
With buttons form'd of pearls as large as peas,
All gold and crimson shone her jellick's fellow; [bound her,
And the striped white gauze baracan that
Like fleecy clouds about the moon, flow'd round her.

LXXI.

One large gold bracelet clasp'd each lovely arm,
Lockless—so pliable from the pure gold
That the hand stretch'd and shut it without harm,
The limb which it adorn'd its only mould;
So beautiful—its very shape would charm,
And clinging as if loth to lose its hold,
The purest ore enclosed the whitest skin
That e'er by precious metal was held in.*

LXXII.

Around, as princess of her father's land,
A like gold bar above her instep roll'd†
Announced her rank; twelve rings were on her hand; [fine fold
Her hair was starr'd with gems; her veil's
Below her breast was fasten'd with a band
Of lavish pearls, whose worth could scarce be told;
Her orange silk full Turkish trousers furl'd
About the prettiest ankle in the world.

LXXIII.

Her hair's long auburn waves down to her heel
Flow'd like an Alpine torrent, which the sun
Dyes with his morning light, and would conceal
Her person if allow'd at large to run;‡ [ceal
And still they seem resentfully to feel
The silken fillet's curb, and sought to shun
Their bonds, whene'er some Zephyr, caught,
To offer his young pinion as her fan. [began

LXXIV.

Round her she made an atmosphere of life,
The very air seem'd lighter from her eyes,
They were so soft and beautiful, and rife
With all we can imagine of the skies,
And pure as Psyche ere she grew a wife—
Too pure even for the purest human ties;
Her overpowering presence made you feel
It would not be idolatry to kneel.

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* This dress is Moorish, and the bracelets and bar are worn in the manner described. The reader will perceive hereafter, that as the mother of Haidee was of Fez, her daughter wore the garb of the country.

† The bar of gold above the instep is a mark of sovereign rank in the women of the females of the Deys, and is worn as such by their female relatives.

‡ This is no exaggeration: there were four women, whom I remember to have seen, who possessed their hair in this profusion: of these, three were English, the other was a Levantine. The hair was of that length and quantity, that, when let down, it almost entirely shaded the person, so as nearly to render dress a superfluity. Of these, only one had dark hair: the Oriental's had, perhaps, the lightest color of the four.

LXXV.

Her eyelashes, though dark as night, were tinged
(It is the country's custom), but in vain;
For those large black eyes were so blackly fringed,
The glossy rebels mock'd the jetty stain,
And in their native beauty stood avenged:
Her nails were touch'd with henna; but again
The power of art was turn'd to nothing, for
They could not look more rosy than before.

LXXVI.

The henna should be deeply dyed to make
The skin relieved appear more fairly fair:
She had no need of this, day ne'er will break
On mountain-tops more heavenly white than her;
The eye might doubt if it were well awake,
She was so like a vision; I might err,
But Shakspeare also says, 'tis very silly
"To gild refined gold, or paint the lily."

LXXVII.

Juan had on a shawl of black and gold,
But a white baracan, and so transparent,
The sparkling gems beneath you might behold,
Like small stars through the milky-way apparent;
His turban, furl'd in many a graceful fold,
An emerald aigrette with Haidée's hair in't
Surmounted, as its clasp, a glowing crescent,
Whose rays shone ever trembling, but incessant.

LXXVIII.

And now they were diverted by their suite,
Dwarfs, dancing-girls, black eunuchs, and a poet,
Which made their new establishment complete:
The last was of great fame, and liked to show it,
His verses rarely wanted their due feet—
And for his theme, he seldom sung below it—
He being paid to satirize or flatter,
As the psalm says, "inditing a good matter."

LXXIX.

He praised the present, and abused the past,
Reversing the good custom of old days,
An Eastern anti-Jacobin at last
He turn'd, preferring pudding to *no* praise—
For some few years his lot had been o'ercast
By his seeming independent in his lays,
But now he sung the Sultan and the Pasha,
With truth like Southey, and with verse like Crashaw.

LXXX.

He was a man who had seen many changes,
And always changed as true as any needle;
His polar star being one which rather ranges,
And not the fix'd—he knew the way to wheedle:
So vile he 'scaped the doom which oft avenges;
And being fluent (save indeed when fee'd ill),
He lied with such a fervor of intention—
There was no doubt he earn'd his laureate pension.

LXXXI.

But he had genius,—when a turn-coat has it,
The "Vates irritabilis" takes care
That without notice few full moons shall pass it;
Even good men like to make the public stare—
But to my subject—let me see—what was it?—
Oh!—the third canto—and the pretty pair—
Their loves, and feasts, and house, and dress,
Of living in their insular abode.

LXXXII.

Their poet, a sad trimmer, but no less
In company a very pleasant fellow,
Had been the favorite of full many a mess
Of men, and made them speeches when half mellow;
And though his meaning they could rarely guess,
Yet still they deign'd to hiccup or to bellow
The glorious meed of popular applause,
Of which the first ne'er knows the second's cause.

LXXXIII.

But now, being lifted into high society,
And having pick'd up several odds and ends
Of free thoughts in his travels for variety,
He deem'd, being in a lone isle among friends,
That without any danger of a riot, he
Might for long lying make himself amends;
And singing as he sung in his warm youth,
Agree to a short armistice with truth.

LXXXIV.

He had travell'd 'mongst the Arabs, Turks, and Franks,
And knew the self-loves of the different nations;
And having lived with people of all ranks,
Had something ready upon most occasions—
Which got him a few presents and some thanks.
He varied with some skill his adulations;
To "do at Rome as Romans do," a piece
Of conduct was which he observed in Greece.

LXXXV.

Thus usually when he was ask'd to sing,
He gave the different nations something national;
'Twas all the same to him—"God save the King,"
Or "*Ça ira*," according to the fashion all:
His muse made increment of anything,
From the high lyric down to the low rational:
If Pindar sang horse-races, what should hinder
Himself from being as pliable as Pindar?

LXXXVI.

In France, for instance, he would write a chanson;
In England, a six-canto quarto tale;
In Spain, he'd make a ballad or romance on
The last war—much the same in Portugal;

In Germany, the Pegasus he'd prance on
Would be old Goethe's—(see what says De
In Italy, he'd ape the "Trecentisti";*[Staël);
In Greece he'd sing some sort of hymn like
this t' ye:

The isles of Greece! the isles of Greece!
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose and Phœbus sprung!
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set.

The Scian † and the Teian ‡ muse,
The hero's harp, the lover's lute,
Have found the fame your shores refuse;
Their place of birth alone is mute
To sounds which echo further west
Than your sires' "Islands of the Blest." §

The mountains look on Marathon—
And Marathon looks on the sea;
And musing there an hour alone,
I dream'd that Greece might still be free;
For, standing on the Persians' grave,
I could not deem myself a slave.

A king sat on the rocky brow
Which looks o'er sea-born Salamis;
And ships, by thousands, lay below,
And men in nations;—all were his!
He counted them at break of day—
And when the sun set where were they? ‖

And where are they? and where art thou,
My country? On thy voiceless shore
The heroic lay is tuneless now—
The heroic bosom beats no more!
And must thy lyre, so long divine,
Degenerate into hands like mine?

'Tis something, in the dearth of fame,
Though link'd among a fetter'd race,
To feel at least a patriot's shame,
Even as I sing, suffuse my face:
For what is left the poet here?
For Greeks a blush—for Greece a tear.

Must *we* but weep o'er days more blest?
Must *we* but blush?—Our fathers bled.
Earth! render back from out thy breast
A remnant of our Spartan dead!
Of the three hundred grant but three,
To make a new Thermopylæ!

What, silent still? and silent all?
Ah, no;—the voices of the dead
Sound like a distant torrent's fall,
And answer, "Let one living head,
But one, arise—we come, we come!"
'Tis but the living who are dumb.

In vain—in vain: strike other chords;
Fill high the cup with Samian wine!
Leave battles to the Turkish hordes,
And shed the blood of Scio's vine!
Hark! rising to the ignoble call,—
How answers each bold Bacchanal!

You have the Pyrrhic dance as yet,
Where is the Pyrrhic phalanx gone?
Of two such lessons, why forget
The nobler and the manlier one?
You have the letters Cadmus gave—
Think ye he meant them for a slave?

Fill high the bowel with Samian wine!
We will not think of themes like these
It made Anacreon's song divine:
He served—but served Polycrates—
A tyrant: but our masters then
Were still, at least, our countrymen.

The tyrant of the Chersonese
Was freedom's best and bravest friend;
That tyrant was Miltiades!
Oh, that the present hour would lend
Another despot of the kind!
Such chains as his were sure to bind.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
On Suli's rock and Parga's shore,
Exists the remnant of a line
Such as the Doric mothers bore:
And there, perhaps, some seed is sown,
The Heracleidan blood might own.

Trust not for freedom to the Franks—
They have a king who buys and sells:
In native swords and native ranks,
The only hope of courage dwells;
But Turkish force and Latin fraud
Would break your shield, however broad.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
Our virgins dance beneath the shade—
I see their glorious black eyes shine;
But, gazing on each glowing maid,
My own the burning tear-drop laves,
To think such breasts must suckle slaves.

Place me on Sunium's marble steep,
Where nothing, save the waves and I,
May hear our mutual murmurs sweep:
There, swan-like, let me sing and die!*
A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine—
Dash down yon cup of Samian wine!

LXXXVII.

Thus sung, or would, or could, or should have
sung,

* The poets of the fourteenth century, Dante, etc.
† Homer. ‡ Anacreon.
§ The *νησοι μακαρων* of the Greek poets were supposed to have been the Cape de Verd islands or the Canaries.
‖ "Deep were the groans of Xerxes, when he saw
This havoc; for his seat, a lofty mound
Commanding the wide sea, o'erlook'd the hosts.
With rueful cries he rent his royal robes,
And through his troops embattled on the shore
Gave signal of retreat: then started wild
And fled disorder'd."—ÆSCHYLUS.

* . . . "Γενοιμαν
ἰν ὑλαεν ἔπεστι ποντου
προβλημ' ἁλικλυστον, ἀκραν
ὑπο πλακα Σουνιου." κ.τ.λ.
—SOPH., "Ajax," v. 1217.

The modern Greek, in tolerable verse;
If not like Orpheus quite, when Greece was young,
Yet in these times he might have done much worse:
His strain display'd some feeling—right or wrong;
And feeling, in a poet, is the source
Of others' feeling: but they are such liars,
And take all colors—like the hands of dyers.

LXXXVIII.

But words are things; and a small drop of ink,
Falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions think:
'Tis strange, the shortest letter which man uses
Instead of speech, may form a lasting link
Of ages; to what straits old Time reduces
Frail man, when paper—even a rag like this—
Survives himself, his tomb, and all that's his!

LXXXIX.

And when his bones are dust, his grave a blank,
His station, generation, even his nation,
Become a thing, or nothing, save to rank
In chronological commemoration,
Some dull MS. oblivion long has sank,
Or graven stone found in a barrack's station
In digging the foundation of a closet,
May turn his name up as a rare deposit.

XC.

And glory long has made the sages smile;
'Tis something, nothing, words, illusion, wind—
Depending more upon the historian's style,
Than on the name a person leaves behind.
Troy owes to Homer what whist owes to Hoyle:
The present century was growing blind
To the great Marlborough's skill in giving knocks,
Until his late Life by Archdeacon Coxe.

XCI.

Milton's the prince of poets—so we say;
A little heavy, but no less divine:
An independent being in his day—
Learn'd, pious, temperate in love and wine:
But his life falling into Johnson's way,
We're told this great high priest of all the Nine
Was whipt at college—a harsh sire—odd spouse,
For the first Mrs. Milton left his house.*

XCII.

All these are, *certes*, entertaining facts,
Like Shakspeare's stealing deer, Lord Bacon's bribes;
Like Titus' youth, and Cæsar's earliest acts;
Like Burns (whom Doctor Currie well describes);
Like Cromwell's pranks;—but although truth exacts
These amiable descriptions from the scribes,
As most essential to their hero's story,
They do not much contribute to his glory.

* See Johnson's Life of Milton [in Lives of the Poets].

XCIII.

All are not moralists, like Southey, when
He prated to the world of "Pantisocracy";
Or Wordsworth, unexcised, unhired, who then
Season'd his pedlar poems with democracy:
Or Coleridge, long before his flighty pen
Let to the *Morning Post* its aristocracy;
When he and Southey, following the same path,
Espoused two partners (milliners of Bath).

XCIV.

Such names at present cut a convict figure,
The very Botany Bay in moral geography;
Their loyal treason, renegado rigor,
Are good manure for their more bare biography.
Wordsworth's last quarto, by the way, is bigger
Than any since the birthday of typography;
A drowsy, frowzy poem call'd *The Excursion*,
Writ in a manner which is my aversion.

XCV.

He there builds up a formidable dyke
Between his own and others' intellect;
But Wordsworth's poem, and his followers,
Like Joanna Southcote's Shiloh, and her sect,
Are things which in this century don't strike
The public mind—so few are the elect;
And the new births of both their stale virginities
Have proved but dropsies, taken for divinities.

XCVI.

But let me to my story: I must own,
If I have any fault, it is digression—
Leaving my people to proceed alone,
While I soliloquize beyond expression;
But these are my addresses from the throne,
Which put off business to the ensuing session;
Forgetting each omission is a loss to
The world, not quite so great as Ariosto.

XCVII.

I know that what our neighbors call "*longueurs*"
(We've not so good a *word*, but have the *thing*,
In that complete perfection which ensures
An epic from Bob Southey every spring—)
Form not the true temptation which allures
The reader; but 'twould not be hard to bring
Some fine examples of the *épopée*
To prove its grand ingredient is *ennui*.

XCVIII.

We learn from Horace, "Homer sometimes sleeps";
We feel without him, Wordsworth sometimes wakes,—
To show with what complacency he creeps,
With his dear "*Waggoners*," around his lakes.
He wishes for "a boat" to sail the deeps—
Of ocean?—No, of air: and then he makes
Another outcry for "a little boat,"
And drivels seas to set it well afloat.

XCIX.

If he must fain sweep o'er the ethereal plain,
And Pegasus runs restive in his "Waggon,"

Could he not beg the loan of Charles's Wain,
Or pray Medea for a single dragon?
Or if too classic for his vulgar brain,
He fear'd his neck to venture such a nag on,
And he must needs mount nearer to the moon,
Could not the blockhead ask for a balloon?

C.

"Pedlars," and "Boats," and "Waggons!"
O, ye shades
Of Pope and Dryden, are we come to this?
That trash of such sort not alone evades
Contempt, but from the bathos' vast abyss
Floats scumlike uppermost; and these Jack Cades [hiss—
Of sense and song, above your graves may
The "little boatman" and his "Peter Bell"
Can sneer at him who drew "Achitophel!" *

CI.

T' our tale.—The feast was over, the slaves gone,
The dwarfs and dancing girls had all retired;
The Arab lore and poet's song were done,
And every sound of revelry expired;
The lady and her lover, left alone,
The rosy flood of twilight's sky admired;—
Ave Maria! o'er the earth and sea, [thee!
That heavenliest hour of Heaven is worthiest

CII.

Ave Maria! blessed be the hour,
The time, the clime, the spot, where I so oft
Have felt that moment in its fullest power
Sink o'er the earth so beautiful and soft,
While swung the deep bell in the distant tower,
Or the faint dying day hymn stole aloft,
And not a breath crept through the rosy air,
And yet the forest leaves seem'd stirr'd with prayer.

CIII.

Ave Maria! 'tis the hour of prayer!
Ave Maria! 'tis the hour of love!
Ave Maria! may our spirits dare
Look up to thine and to thy Son's above!
Ave Maria! oh that face so fair! [dove—
Those downcast eyes beneath the Almighty
What though 'tis but a pictured image?—strike—
That painting is no idol—'tis too like.

CIV.

Some kinder casuists are pleased to say
In nameless print—that I have no devotion;
But set those persons down with me to pray,
And you shall see who has the properest notion
Of getting into heaven the shortest way:
My altars are the mountains and the ocean,
Earth, air, stars—all that springs from the great Whole,
Who hath produced, and will receive the soul.

CV.

Sweet hour of twilight!—in the solitude
Of the pine forest and the silent shore
Which bounds Ravenna's immemorial wood,
Rooted where once the Adrian wave flow'd o'er,
To where the last Cæsarean fortress stood,
Evergreen forest! which Boccaccio's lore
And Dryden's lay made haunted ground to me,
How have I loved the twilight hour and thee!

CVI.

The shrill cicalas, people of the pine,
Making their summer lives one ceaseless song, [mine,
Were the sole echoes, save my steed's and
And vesper bells that rose the boughs along:
The spectre huntsman of Onesti's line,
His hell-dogs and their chase, and the fair throng,
Which learn'd from this example not to fly
From a true lover—shadow'd my mind's eye.*

CVII.

O Hesperus! thou bringest all good things †
Home to the weary, to the hungry cheer,
To the young bird the parent's brooding wings,
The welcome stall to the o'erlabor'd steer;
Whate'er of peace about our hearthstone clings,
Whate'er our household gods protect of dear,
Are gather'd round us by thy look of rest;
Thou bring'st the child, too, to the mother's breast.

CVIII.

Soft hour! which wakes the wish and melts the heart
Of those who sail the seas, on the first day
When they from their sweet friends are torn apart;
Or fills with love the pilgrim on his way
As the far bell of vesper makes him start,
Seeming to weep the dying day's decay;
Is this a fancy which our reason scorns?
Ah! surely nothing dies but something mourns.‡

CIX.

When Nero perish'd by the justest doom
Which ever the destroyer yet destroy'd,
Amidst the roar of liberated Rome,
Of nations freed, and the world overjoy'd,
Some hands unseen strew'd flowers upon his tomb; §

* "The verses of Dryden, once highly celebrated, are forgotten." Mr. W. WORDSWORTH'S "Preface."

* See Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.

† "Εσπερε παντα φερεις;
Φερεις οἰνον—φερεις αἰγα,
Φερεις ματερι παιδα."—Fragment of SAPPHO.

‡ "Era già l'ora che volge 'l disio,
A' naviganti, e 'ntenerisce il cuore,
Lo dì ch' han detto a' dolci amici a dio;
E che lo nuovo peregrin' d' amore
Punge, se ode Squilla di lontano,
Che paia l giorno pianger che si muore."
DANTE'S "Purgatory," canto viii.
This last line is the first of Gray's Elegy, taken by him without acknowledgment.

§ See "Suetonius" for this fact.

Perhaps the weakness of a heart not void
Of feeling for some kindness done, when power
Had left the wretch an uncorrupted hour.

CX.

But I'm digressing; what on earth has Nero,
Or any such like sovereign buffoons,
To do with the transactions of my hero,
More than such madmen's fellow-man—the moon's?
Sure my invention must be down at zero,
And I grown one of many "wooden spoons"
Of verse (the name with which we Cantabs please
To dub the last of honors in degrees).

CXI.

I feel this tediousness will never do—
'Tis being *too* epic, and I must cut down
(In copying) this long canto into two:
They'll never find it out, unless I own
The fact, excepting some experienced few;
And then as an improvement 'twill be shown:
I'll prove that such the opinion of the critic is,
From Aristotle *passim*.—See Ποιητικης.

CANTO THE FOURTH.

1821.

I.

Nothing so difficult as a beginning
In poesy, unless perhaps the end;
For oftentimes, when Pegasus seems winning
The race, he sprains a wing, and down we tend,
Like Lucifer, when hurl'd from heaven for sinning;
Our sin the same, and hard as his to mend,
Being pride, which leads the mind to soar too far,
Till our own weakness shows us what we are.

II.

But Time, which brings all beings to their level,
And sharp Adversity, will teach at last
Man, and—as we would hope—perhaps the devil,
That neither of their intellects are vast:
While youth's hot wishes in our red veins revel,
We know not this—the blood flows on too fast;
But as the torrent widens towards the ocean,
We ponder deeply on each past emotion.

III.

As a boy, I thought myself a clever fellow,
And wish'd that others held the same opinion:
They took it up when my days grew more mellow,
And other minds acknowledged my dominion:
Now my sere fancy "falls into the yellow Leaf," and Imagination droops her pinion,
And the sad truth which hovers o'er my desk
Turns what was once romantic to burlesque.

IV.

And if I laugh at any mortal thing,
'Tis that I may not weep; and if I weep,
'Tis that our nature cannot always bring
Itself to apathy, for we must steep
Our hearts first in the depth of Lethe's spring,
Ere what we least wish to behold will sleep:
Thetis baptized her mortal son in Styx;
A mortal mother would on Lethe fix.

V.

Some have accused me of a strange design
Against the creed and morals of the land,
And trace it in this poem every line:
I don't pretend that I quite understand
My own meaning when I would be *very* fine;
But the fact is, that I have nothing plann'd,
Unless it were to be a moment merry,
A novel word in my vocabulary.

VI.

To the kind reader of our sober clime,
This way of writing will appear exotic:
Pulci was sire of the half-serious rhyme,
Who sang when chivalry was more Quixotic,
And revell'd in the fancies of the time,
True knights, chaste dames, huge giants, kings despotic;
But all these, save the last, being obsolete,
I chose a modern subject as more meet.

VII.

How I have treated it, I do not know;
Perhaps no better than they have treated me
Who have imputed such designs as show
Not what they saw, but what they wish'd to see:
But if it gives them pleasure, be it so;
This is a liberal age, and thoughts are free:
Meantime Apollo plucks me by the ear,
And tells me to resume my story here.

VIII.

Young Juan and his lady-love were left
To their own hearts' most sweet society;
Even Time the pitiless in sorrow cleft
With his rude scythe such gentle bosoms;
Sigh'd to behold them of their hours bereft,
Though foe to love; and yet they could not be
Meant to grow old, but die in happy spring,
Before one charm or hope had taken wing.

IX.

Their faces were not made for wrinkles, their
Pure blood to stagnate, their great hearts to fail:
The blank gray was not made to blast their hair,
But like the climes that know nor snow nor hail,
They were all summer: lightning might assail
And shiver them to ashes, but to trail

A long and snake-like life of dull decay
Was not for them—they had too little clay.

X.

They were alone once more; for them to be
Thus was another Eden: they were never
Weary, unless when separate: the tree
Cut from its forest root of years—the river
Damm'd from its fountain—the child from the knee [ever,—
And breast maternal wean'd at once for-
Would wither less than these two torn apart:
Alas! there is no instinct like the heart—

XI.

The heart—which may be broken: happy they!
Thrice fortunate! who of that fragile mould,
The precious porcelain of human clay, [hold
Break with the first fall: they can ne'er be-
The long year link'd with heavy day on day,
And all which must be borne, and never told;
While life's strange principle will often lie
Deepest in those who long the most to die.

XII.

"Whom the gods love, die young," was said of yore,*
And many deaths do they escape by this;
The death of friends, and that which slays even more— [is,
The death of friendship, love, youth, all that
Except mere breath; and since the silent shore
Awaits at last even those who longest miss
The old archer's shafts, perhaps the early grave
Which men weep over, may be meant to save.

XIII.

Haidée and Juan thought not of the dead.
The heavens, and earth, and air, seem'd made for them: [fled;
They found no fault with Time, save that he
They saw not in themselves aught to condemn:
Each was the other's mirror, and but read
Joy sparkling in their dark eyes like a gem;
And knew such brightness was but the reflec-
Of their exchanging glances of affection. [tion.

XIV.

The gentle pressure and the thrilling touch,
The least glance better understood than words, [much:
Which still said all, and ne'er could say too
A language, too, but like to that of birds,
Known but to them, at least appearing such
As but to lovers a true sense affords: [surd
Sweet playful phrases, which would seem ab-
To those who have ceased to hear such, or ne'er heard.

XV.

All these were theirs, for they were children still, [been:
And children still they should have ever
They were not made in the real world to fill
A busy character in the dull scene;
But like two beings born from out a rill,
A nymph and her beloved, all unseen
To pass their lives in fountains and on flowers,
And never know the weight of human hours.

XVI.

Moons changing had roll'd on, and changeless found [joys
Those their bright rise had lighted to such
As rarely they beheld throughout their round;
And these were not of the vain kind which cloys,
For theirs were buoyant spirits, never bound
By the mere senses; and that which destroys
Most love, possession, unto them appear'd
A thing which each endearment more endear'd.

XVII.

Oh beautiful! and rare as beautiful! [lights
But theirs was love in which the mind de-
To lose itself, when the old world grows dull,
And we are sick of its hack sounds and sights,
Intrigues, adventures of the common school,
Its petty passions, marriages, and flights,
Where Hymen's torch but brands one strumpet more,
Whose husband only knows her not a wh—re.

XVIII.

Hard words; harsh truth; a truth which many know.
Enough.—The faithful and the fairy pair,
Who never found a single hour too slow, [care?
What was it made them thus exempt from
Young innate feelings all have felt below,
Which perish in the rest, but in them were
Inherent; what we mortals call romantic,
And always envy, though we deem it frantic.

XIX.

This is in others a factitious state, [reading,
An opium-dream of too much youth and
But was in them their nature or their fate:
No novels e'er had set their young hearts bleeding; [great,
For Haidée's knowledge was by no means
And Juan was a boy of saintly breeding;
So that there was no reason for their loves
More than for those of nightingales or doves.

XX.

They gazed upon the sunset: 'tis an hour
Dear unto all, but dearest to *their* eyes,
For it had made them what they were: the power [such skies,
Of love had first overwhelm'd them from
When happiness had been their only dower,
And twilight saw them link'd in passion's ties; [that brought
Charm'd with each other, all things charm'd
The past still welcome as the present thought.

XXI.

I know not why, but in that hour to-night,
Even as they gazed, a sudden tremor came,

* See "Herodotus."

And swept, as 'twere, across their heart's delight,
Like the wind o'er a harp-string, or a flame,
When one is shook in sound, and one in sight;
And thus some boding flash'd through either frame,
And call'd from Juan's breast a faint low sigh,
While one new tear arose in Haidée's eye.

XXII.

That large black prophet-eye seem'd to dilate,
And follow far the disappearing sun,
As if their last day of a happy date
With his broad, bright, and dropping orb were gone;
Juan gazed on her as to ask his fate—
He felt a grief; but, knowing cause for none,
His glance inquired of hers for some excuse
For feelings causeless, or at least abstruse.

XXIII.

She turn'd to him, and smiled, but in that sort
Which makes not others smile; then turn'd aside:
Whatever feeling shook her, it seem'd short,
And master'd by her wisdom or her pride:
When Juan spoke, too—it might be in sport—
Of this their mutual feeling, she replied,
"If it should be so—but—it cannot be—
Or I at least shall not survive to see."

XXIV.

Juan would question further, but she press'd
His lips to hers, and silenced him with this,
And then dismiss'd the omen from her breast,
Defying augury with that fond kiss:
And no doubt of all methods 'tis the best.
Some people prefer wine—'tis not amiss;
I have tried both: so those who would a part take [heartache.
May choose between the headache and the

XXV.

One of the two according to your choice,
Women or wine, you'll have to undergo;
Both maladies are taxes on our joys,
But which to choose I really hardly know;
And if I had to give a casting voice,
For both sides I could many a reason show,
And then decide, without great wrong to either,
It were much better to have both than neither.

XXVI.

Juan and Haidée gazed upon each other
With swimming looks of speechless tenderness, [brother,
Which mix'd all feelings, friend, child, lover,
All that the best can mingle and express
When two pure hearts are pour'd in one another,
And love too much, and yet cannot love less;
But almost sanctify the sweet excess,
By the immortal wish and power to bless.

XXVII.

Mix'd in each other's arms, and heart in heart,
Why did they not then die?—they had lived too long [apart;
Should an hour come to bid them breathe
Years could but bring them cruel things or wrong;
The world was not for them, nor the world's art
For beings passionate as Sappho's song:
Love was born *with* them, *in* them, so intense,
It was their very spirit—not a sense.

XXVIII.

They should have lived together deep in woods,
Unseen as sings the nightingale; they were
Unfit to mix in these thick solitudes [Care:
Call'd social, haunts of Hate, and Vice, and
How lonely every freeborn creature broods!
The sweetest song-birds nestle in a pair:
The eagle soars alone; the gull and crow
Flock o'er their carrion, just like men below.

XXIX.

Now pillow'd cheek to cheek, in loving sleep,
Haidée and Juan their siesta took,
A gentle slumber, but it was not deep,
For ever and anon a something shook
Juan, and shuddering o'er his frame would creep; [brook
And Haidée's sweet lips murmur'd like a
A wordless music, and her face so fair [air;
Stirr'd with her dream, as rose-leaves with the

XXX.

Or as the stirring of a deep clear stream
Within an Alpine hollow, when the wind
Walks o'er it, was she shaken by the dream,
The mystical usurper of the mind—
O'erpowering us to be whate'er may seem
Good to the soul which we no more can bind;
Strange state of being! (for 'tis still to be)
Senseless to feel, and with seal'd eyes to see.

XXXI.

She dream'd of being alone on the sea-shore,
Chain'd to a rock; she knew not how, but stir
She could not from the spot, and the loud roar
Grew, and each wave rose roughly, threatening her;
And o'er her upper lip they seem'd to pour,
Until she sobb'd for breath, and soon they were [high—
Foaming o'er her lone head, so fierce and
Each broke to drown her, yet she could not die.

XXXII.

Anon—she was released, and then she stray'd
O'er the sharp shingles with her bleeding feet,
And stumbled almost every step she made:
And something roll'd before her in a sheet,
Which she must still pursue, howe'er afraid;
'Twas white and indistinct, nor stopp'd to meet [grasp'd,
Her glance or grasp, for still she gazed and
And ran, but it escaped her as she clasp'd.

XXXIII.

The dream changed:—in a cave she stood, its walls
Were hung with marble icicles: the work
Of ages on its water-fretted halls,
Where waves might wash, and seals might breed and lurk;
Her hair was dripping, and the very balls
Of her black eyes seem'd turn'd to tears, and mirk [caught,
The sharp rocks look'd below each drop they
Which froze to marble as it fell—she thought.

XXXIV.

And wet, and cold, and lifeless, at her feet,
Pale as the foam that froth'd on his dead brow,
Which she essay'd in vain to clear (how sweet
Were once her cares, how idle seem'd they now!)
Lay Juan, nor could aught renew the heat
Of his quench'd heart; and the sea-dirges low
Rang in her sad ears like a mermaid's song,
And that brief dream appear'd a life too long.

XXXV.

And gazing on the dead, she thought his face
Faded, or alter'd into something new—
Like to her father's features, till each trace
More like and like to Lambro's aspect grew— [grace;
With all his keen worn look and Grecian
And starting, she awoke, and what to view?
O Powers of Heaven! what dark eye meets she there?
'Tis—'tis her father's—fix'd upon the pair!

XXXVI.

Then shrieking, she arose, and shrieking fell,
With joy and sorrow, hope and fear, to see
Him whom she deem'd a habitant where dwell
The ocean buried, risen from death, to be
Perchance the death of one she loved too well:
Dear as her father had been to Haidée,
It was a moment of that awful kind—
I have seen such—but must not call to mind.

XXXVII.

Up Juan sprang to Haidée's bitter shriek,
And caught her falling, and from off the wall
Snatch'd down his sabre, in hot haste to wreak
Vengeance on him who was the cause of all;
Then Lambro, who till now forbore to speak,
Smiled scornfully, and said, "Within my call,
A thousand scimitars await the word;
Put up, young man, put up your silly sword."

XXXVIII.

And Haidée clung around him: "Juan, 'tis—
'Tis Lambro—'tis my father! Kneel with me—
He will forgive us—yes—it must be—yes,
Oh, dearest father, in this agony
Of pleasure and of pain—even while I kiss
Thy garment's hem with transport, can it be
That doubt should mingle with my filial joy?
Deal with me as thou wilt, but spare this boy."

XXXIX.

High and inscrutable the old man stood,
Calm in his voice, and calm within his eye—
Not always signs with him of calmest mood:
He look'd upon her, but gave no reply;
Then turn'd to Juan, in whose cheek the blood
Oft came and went, as there resolved to die;
In arms, at least, he stood in act to spring
On the first foe whom Lambro's call might bring.

XL.

"Young man, your sword!" So Lambro once more said;
Juan replied, "Not while this arm is free!"
The old man's cheek grew pale, but not with dread,
But drawing from his belt a pistol, he
Replied, "Your blood be then on your own head."
Then look'd close at the flint, as if to see
'Twas fresh—for he had lately used the lock—
And next proceeded quietly to cock.

XLI.

It has a strange, quick jar upon the ear,
That cocking of a pistol, when you know
A moment more will bring the sight to bear
Upon your person, twelve yards off, or so;
A gentlemanly distance, not too near,
If you have got a former friend for foe;
But after being fired at once or twice,
The ear becomes more Irish, and less nice.

XLII.

Lambro presented, and one instant more
Had stopp'd this canto, and Don Juan's breath,
When Haidée threw herself her boy before,
Stern as her sire: "On me," she cried, "let death
Descend—the fault is mine; this fatal shore
He found—but sought not. I have pledged my faith;
I love him—I will die with him: I knew [too."
Your nature's firmness—know your daughter's

XLIII.

A minute past, and she had been all tears,
And tenderness, and infancy; but now
She stood as one who champion'd human fears— [blow;
Pale, statue-like, and stern, she woo'd the
And tall beyond her sex, and their compeers,
She drew up to her height, as if to show
A fairer mark; and with a fix'd eye scann'd
Her father's face—but never stopp'd his hand.

XLIV.

He gazed on her, and she on him; 'twas strange
How like they look'd! the expression was the same;
Serenely savage, with a little change
In the large dark eye's mutual-darted flame;

For she, too, was one who could avenge,
If cause should be—a lioness, though tame:
Her father's blood, before her father's face
Boil'd up, and proved her truly of his race.

XLV.

I said they were alike, their features and
Their stature differing but in sex and years;
Even to the delicacy of their hand [wears;
There was resemblance, such as true blood
And now to see them, thus divided, stand
In fix'd ferocity, when joyous tears, [both,
And sweet sensations, should have welcomed
Show what the passions are in their full growth.

XLVI.

The father paused a moment, then withdrew
His weapon, and replaced it; but stood still,
And looking on her, as to look her through,
"Not *I*," he said, "have sought this stran-
Not *I* have made this desolation; few [ger's ill;
Would bear such outrage, and forbear to kill;
But I must do my duty—how thou hast
Done thine, the present vouches for the past.

XLVII.

"Let him disarm; or, by my father's head,
His own shall roll before you, like a ball!"
He raised his whistle, as the word he said,
And blew, another answer'd to the call,
And, rushing in disorderly, though led,
And arm'd from boot to turban, one and all,
Some twenty of his train came, rank on rank;
He gave the word—"Arrest or slay the Frank!"

XLVIII.

Then, with a sudden movement, he withdrew
His daughter; while compress'd within his clasp,
'Twixt her and Juan interposed the crew;
In vain she struggled in her father's grasp—
His arms were like a serpent's coil: then flew
Upon their prey, as darts an angry asp,
The file of pirates; save the foremost, who
Had fallen, with his right shoulder half cut through.

XLIX.

The second had his cheek laid open; but
The third, a wary, cool old sworder, took
The blows upon his cutlass, and then put
His own well in: so well, ere you could look,
His man was floor'd, and helpless at his foot,
With the blood running, like a little brook,
From two smart sabre gashes, deep and red—
One on the arm, the other on the head.

L.

And then they bound him where he fell, and
Juan from the apartment: with a sign, [bore
Old Lambro bade them take him to the shore,
Where lay some ships which were to sail at nine.
They laid him in a boat, and plied the oar
Until they reach'd some galliots, placed in line:
On board of one of these, and under hatches,
They stow'd him, with strict orders to the watches.

LI.

The world is full of strange vicissitudes,
And here was one exceedingly unpleasant;
A gentleman so rich in the world's goods,
Handsome and young, enjoying all the present,
Just at the very time when he least broods
On such a thing, is suddenly to sea sent,
Wounded and chain'd, so that he cannot move,
And all because a lady fell in love.

LII.

Here I must leave him, for I grow pathetic,
Moved by the Chinese nymph of tears, green tea! [phetic;
Than whom Cassandra was not more pro-
For if my pure libations exceed three,
I feel my heart become so sympathetic,
That I must have recourse to black Bohea:
'Tis pity wine should be so deleterious,
For tea and coffee leave us much more serious,

LIII.

Unless when qualified with thee, Cogniac!
Sweet Naïad of the Phlegethontic rill!
Ah, why the liver wilt thou thus attack, [ill?
And make, like other nymphs, thy lovers
I would take refuge in weak punch, but *rack*
(In each sense of the word), whene'er I fill
My mild and midnight beakers to the brim,
Wakes me next morning with its synonym.

LIV.

I leave Don Juan for the present, safe— [ed;
Not sound, poor fellow, but severely wound-
Yet could his corporal pangs amount to half
Of those with which his Haidée's bosom bounded!
She was not one to weep, and rave, and chafe,
And then give way, subdued, because surrounded;
Her mother was a Moorish maid, from Fez,
Where all is Eden, or a wilderness.

LV.

There the large olive rains its amber store
In marble fonts; there grain, and flower, and fruit,
Gush from the earth, until the land runs o'er:
But there, too, many a poison tree has root,
And midnight listens to the lion's roar, [foot,
And long, long deserts scorch the camel's
Or heaving, whelm the helpless caravan:
And as the soil is, so the heart of man.

LVI.

Afric is all the sun's, and as her earth
Her human clay is kindled: full of power
For good or evil, burning from its birth.
The Moorish blood partakes the planet's hour,
And like the soil beneath, it will bring forth:

Beauty and love were Haidée's mother's dower;
But her large dark eye show'd deep Passion's force,
Though sleeping like a lion near a source.

LVII.

Her daughter, temper'd with a milder ray,
Like summer's clouds all silvery smooth and fair,
Till slowly charged with thunder, they display
Terror to earth, and tempest to the air,
Had held till now her soft and milky way,
But, overwrought with passion and despair,
The fire burst forth from her Numidian veins,
Even as the Simoom sweeps the blasted plains.

LVIII.

The last sight which she saw was Juan's gore,
And he himself o'ermaster'd, and cut down;
His blood was running on the very floor,
Where late he trod, her beautiful, her own;
Thus much she view'd an instant, and no more—
Her struggles ceased with one convulsive groan;
On her sire's arm, which, until now, scarce held
Her, writhing, fell she, like a cedar fell'd.

LIX.

A vein had burst, and her sweet lips' pure dyes
Were dabbled with the deep blood which ran o'er;*
And her head droop'd, as when the lily lies
O'ercharged with rain: her summon'd handmaids bore
Their lady to her couch, with gushing eyes;
Of herbs and cordials they produced their store,
But she defied all means they could employ,
Like one life could not hold, nor death destroy.

LX.

Days lay she in that state, unchanged, though chill—
With nothing livid, still her lips were red:
She had no pulse, but death seem'd absent still;
No hideous sign proclaim'd her surely dead;
Corruption came not, in each mind to kill
All hope; to look upon her sweet face, bred
New thoughts of life, for it seem'd full of soul—
She had so much, earth could not claim the whole.

LXI.

The ruling passion, such as marble shows
When exquisitely chisell'd, still lay there,
But fix'd as marble's unchanged aspect throws
O'er the fair Venus, but forever fair;
O'er the Laocoon's all eternal throes,
And ever-dying Gladiator's air,
Their energy, like life, forms all their fame,
Yet looks not life, for they are still the same.

LXII.

She woke at length, but not as sleepers wake,
Rather the dead, for life seem'd something new,
A strange sensation which she must partake
Perforce, since whatsoever met her view
Struck not on memory, though a heavy ache
Lay at her heart, whose earliest beat, still true,
Brought back the sense of pain without the cause,
For, for a while, the furies made a pause.

LXIII.

She look'd on many a face with vacant eye,
On many a token, without knowing what;
She saw them watch her, without asking why,
And reck'd not who around her pillow sat:
Not speechless, though she spoke not; not a sigh
Relieved her thoughts; dull silence and quick chat
Were tried in vain by those who served; she gave
No sign, save breath, of having left the grave.

LXIV.

Her handmaids tended, but she heeded not;
Her father watch'd, she turn'd her eyes away;
She recognized no being, and no spot,
However dear, or cherish'd in their day;
They changed from room to room, but all forgot:
Gentle, but without memory, she lay;
At length those eyes, which they would fain be weaning
Back to old thoughts, wax'd full of fearful meaning.

LXV.

And then a slave bethought her of a harp;
The harper came and tuned his instrument.
At the first notes, irregular and sharp,
On him her flashing eyes a moment bent,
Then to the wall she turn'd, as if to warp
Her thoughts from sorrow through her heart re-sent;
And he began a long low island song
Of ancient days, ere tyranny grew strong.

LXVI.

Anon her thin wan fingers beat the wall,
In time to his old tune: he changed the theme,
And sung of love; the fierce name struck through all
Her recollection; on her flash'd the dream
Of what she was, and is, if ye could call
To be so being: in a gushing stream
The tears rush'd forth from her o'erclouded brain,
Like mountain mists, at length dissolved in rain.

LXVII.

Short solace, vain relief!—thought came too quick,

* This is no very uncommon effect of the violence of conflicting and different passions. The Doge Francis Foscari, on his deposition in 1457, hearing the bell of St. Mark announce the election of his successor, "mourut subitement d'une hemorrhagie causee par une veine qui s'eclata dans sa poitrine" (see Sismondi and Daru, vols. i. and ii.), at the age of eighty years, when "Who would have thought the old man had so much blood in him!" Before I was sixteen years of age, I was witness to a melancholy instance of the same effect of mixed passions upon a young person; who, however, did not die in consequence at that time, but fell a victim some years afterwards to a seizure of the same kind, arising from causes intimately connected with agitation of mind.

And whirl'd her brain to madness; she arose,
As one who ne'er had dwelt among the sick,
And flew at all she met, as on her foes;
But no one ever heard her speak or shriek,
Although her paroxysm drew towards its close:—
Hers was a frenzy which disdain'd to rave,
Even when they smote her, in the hope to save.

LXVIII.

Yet she betray'd at times a gleam of sense;
Nothing could make her meet her father's face,
Though on all other things with looks intense
She gazed, but none she ever could retrace.
Food she refused, and raiment; no pretence
Avail'd for either; neither change of place,
Nor time, nor skill, nor remedy, could give her
Senses to sleep—the power seem'd gone forever.

LXIX.

Twelve days and nights she wither'd thus; at last,
Without a groan, or sigh, or glance, to show
A parting pang, the spirit from her past:
And they who watch'd her nearest, could not know
The very instant, till the change that cast
Her sweet face into shadow, dull and slow,
Glazed o'er her eyes—the beautiful, the black—
Oh! to possess such lustre—and then lack!

LXX.

She died, but not alone: she held within
A second principle of life, which might
Have dawn'd a fair and sinless child of sin;
But closed its little being without light,
And went down to the grave unborn, wherein
Blossom and bough lie wither'd with one blight:
In vain the dews of heaven descend above
The bleeding flower and blasted fruit of love.

LXXI.

Thus lived—thus died she; never more on her
Shall sorrow light, or shame. She was not made [bear,
Through years or moons the inner weight to
Which colder hearts endure till they are laid
By age in earth; her days and pleasures were
Brief but delightful—such as had not stay'd
Long with her destiny; but she sleeps well
By the sea-shore, whereon she loved to dwell.

LXXII.

The isle is now all desolate and bare,
Its dwellings down, its tenants pass'd away:
None but her own and father's grave is there,
And nothing outward tells of human clay:
Ye could not know where lies a thing so fair,
No stone is there to show, no tongue to say
What was: no dirge, except the hollow sea's,
Mourns o'er the beauty of the Cyclades.

LXXIII.

But many a Greek maid in a loving song
Sighs o'er her name; and many an islander
With her sire's story makes the night less long.
Valor was his, and beauty dwelt with her:
If she loved rashly, her life paid for wrong—
A heavy price must all pay who thus err,
In some shape; let none think to fly the danger,
For soon or late Love is his own avenger.

LXXIV.

But let me change this theme, which grows too sad,
And lay this sheet of sorrows on the shelf;
I don't much like describing people mad,
For fear of seeming rather touch'd myself—
Besides, I've no more on this head to add;
And as my muse is a capricious elf,
We'll put about and try another tack
With Juan, left half-killed some stanzas back.

LXXV.

Wounded and fetter'd, "cabin'd, cribb'd, confined,"
Some days and nights elapsed before that he
Could altogether call the past to mind;
And when he did, he found himself at sea,
Sailing six knots an hour before the wind;
The shores of Ilion lay beneath their lee—
Another time he might have liked to see 'em,
But now was not much pleased with Cape Sigæum.

LXXVI.

There on the green and village-cotted hill, is
(Flank'd by the Hellespont and by the sea)
Entomb'd the bravest of the brave, Achilles;
They say so—(Bryant says the contrary); [is
And farther downward, tall and towering still,
The tumulus—of whom? Heaven knows; 't
Patroclus, Ajax, or Protesilaus; [may be
All heroes, who, if living still, would slay us.

LXXVII.

High barrows, without marble or a name,
A vast, untill'd, and mountain-skirted plain,
And Ida in the distance, still the same,
And old Scamander (if 'tis he), remain:
The situation seems still form'd for fame—
A hundred thousand men might fight again
With ease; but where I sought for Ilion's walls,
The quiet sheep feeds, and the tortoise crawls.

LXXVIII.

Troops of untended horses; here and there
Some little hamlets, with new names uncouth.
Some shepherds (unlike Paris), led to stare
A moment at the European youth [bear;
Whom to the spot their schoolboy feelings
A Turk, with beads in hand and pipe in mouth,
Extremely taken with his own religion, [ian.
Are what I found there—but the devil a Phryg-

LXXIX.

Don Juan, here permitted to emerge
From his dull cabin, found himself a slave;
Forlorn, and gazing on the deep blue surge,
O'ershadow'd there by many a hero's grave;

Weak still with loss of blood, he scarce could urge
A few brief questions; and the answers gave
No very satisfactory information
About his past or present situation.

LXXX.

He saw some fellow-captives, who appear'd
To be Italians, as they were in fact;
From them, at least, *their* destiny he heard,
Which was an odd one: a troop going to act
In Sicily—all singers, duly rear'd
In their vocation; had not been attack'd,
In sailing from Livorno, by the pirate,
But sold by the impresario, at no high rate.*

LXXXI.

By one of these, the buffo of the party,
Juan was told about their curious case;
For although destined to the Turkish mart, he
Still kept his spirits up—at least his face;
The little fellow really look'd quite hearty,
And bore him with some gaiety and grace,
Showing a much more reconciled demeanor
Than did the prima donna and the tenor.

LXXXII.

In a few words he told their hapless story,
Saying, "Our Machiavellian impresario,
Making a signal off some promontory,
Hail'd a strange brig; Corpo di Caio Mario!
We were transferr'd on board her in a hurry,
Without a single scudo of salario;
But if the Sultan has a taste for song,
We will revive our fortunes before long.

LXXXIII.

"The prima donna, though a little old,
And haggard with a dissipated life,
And subject, when the house is thin, to cold,
Has some good notes: and then the tenor's wife,
With no great voice, is pleasing to behold;
Last carnival she made a deal of strife,
By carrying off Count Cæsare Cicogna
From an old Roman princess at Bologna.

LXXXIV.

"And then there are the dancers: there's the Nini,
With more than one profession gains by all;
Then there's that laughing slut the Pelegrini,
She, too, was fortunate last carnival,
And made at least five hundred good zecchini,
But spends so fast she has not now a paul;
And then there's the Grotesca—such a dancer!
Where men have souls or bodies, she must answer.

LXXXV.

"As for the figuranti, they are like
The rest of all that tribe; with here and there
A pretty person, which perhaps may strike,
The rest are hardly fitted for a fair;
There's one, though tall and stiffer than a pike,
Yet has a sentimental kind of air [vigor;
Which might go far, but she don't dance with
The more's the pity, with her face and figure.

LXXXVI.

"As for the men, they are a middling set;
The musico is but a crack'd old basin;
But being qualified in one way yet,
May the seraglio do to set his face in,
And as a servant some preferment get:
His singing I no further trust can place in,
From all the Pope makes yearly, 'twould perplex
To find three perfect pipes of the *third* sex.*

LXXXVII.

"The tenor's voice is spoilt by affectation:
And for the bass, the beast can only bellow;
In fact, he had no singing education, [fellow;
An ignorant, noteless, timeless, tuneless
But being the prima donna's near relation,
Who swore his voice was very rich and mellow, [believe
They hired him, though to hear him you'd
An ass was practicing recitative.

LXXXVIII.

"Twould not become myself to dwell upon
My own merits, and though young,—I see, sir—you
Have got a travell'd air, which speaks you one
To whom the opera is by no means new:
You've heard of Raucocanti?—I'm the man;
The time may come when you may hear me, too;
You was not last year at the fair of Lugo,
But next, when I'm engaged to sing there—do go.

LXXXIX.

"Our baritone I almost had forgot,
A pretty lad, but bursting with conceit;
With graceful action, science not a jot,
A voice of no great compass, and not sweet,
He always is complaining of his lot,
Forsooth, scarce fit for ballads in the street;
In lovers' parts his passion more to breathe,
Having no heart to show, he shows his teeth."

XC.

Here Raucocanti's eloquent recital
Was interrupted by the pirate crew,
Who came at stated moments to invite all
The captives back to their sad berths; each threw [all
A rueful glance upon the waves (which bright
From the blue skies derived a double blue,
Dancing all free and happy in the sun),
And then went down the hatchway one by one.

* This is a fact. A few years ago a man engaged a company for some foreign theatre, embarked them at an Italian port, and carrying them to Algeria, sold them all. One of the women, returned from her captivity, I heard sing, by a strange coincidence, in Rossini's opera of "L'Italiana in Algeria," at Venice in the beginning of 1817.

* It is strange that it should be the Pope and the Sultan who are the chief encouragers of this branch of trade—women being prohibited as singers at St. Peter's, and not deemed trustworthy as guardians of the harem.

XCI.

They heard next day that in the Dardanelles,
Waiting for his Sublimity's firman,
The most imperative of sovereign spells,
Which everybody does without who can,
More to secure them in their naval cells,
Lady to lady, well as man to man,
Were to be chain'd and lotted out per couple,
For the slave market for Constantinople.

XCII.

It seems, when this allotment was made out,
There chanced to be an odd male and odd female,
Who (after some discussion and some doubt,
If the soprano might be deem'd to be male,
They placed him o'er the woman as a scout)
Were link'd together, and it happen'd the male [age—
Was Juan, who—an awkward thing at his
Pair'd off with a Bacchante blooming visage.

XCIII.

With Raucocanti lucklessly was chain'd
The tenor; these two hated with a hate,
Found only on the stage, and each more pain'd
With this his tuneful neighbor than his fate;
Sad strife arose, for they were so cross-grain'd,
Instead of bearing up without debate, [oath,
That each pull'd different ways with many an
"Arcades ambo"—*id est*, blackguards both.

XCIV.

Juan's companion was a Romagnole,
But bred within the March of old Ancona,
With eyes that look'd into the very soul
(And other chief points of a "bella donna"),
Bright—and as black and burning as a coal;
And through her clear brunette complexion shone a
Great wish to please—a most attractive dower,
Especially when added to the power.

XCV.

But all that power was wasted upon him,
For sorrow o'er each sense held stern command;
Her eye might flash on his, but found it dim;
And though thus chain'd, as natural her hand
Touch'd his, nor that—nor any handsome limb
(And she had some not easy to withstand)
Could stir his pulse, or make his faith feel brittle;
Perhaps his recent wounds might help a little.

XCVI.

No matter; we should ne'er too much inquire,
But facts are facts; no knight could be more
And firmer faith no ladye-love desire; [true,
We will omit the proofs, save one or two:
'Tis said no one in hand "can hold a fire
By thought of frosty Caucasus"; but few,
I really think; yet Juan's then ordeal
Was more triumphant, and not much less real.

XCVII.

Here I might enter on a chaste description,
Having withstood temptation in my youth,
But hear that several people take exception
At the first two books having too much truth. [soon,
Therefore I'll make Don Juan leave the ship
Because the publisher declares, in sooth,
Through needles' eyes it easier for a camel is
To pass, than those two cantos into families.

XCVIII.

'Tis all the same to me: I'm fond of yielding,
And therefore leave them to the purer page
Of Smollett, Prior, Ariosto, Fielding, [age.
Who say strange things, for so correct an
I once had great alacrity in wielding
My pen, and liked poetic war to wage,
And recollect the time when all this cant
Would have provoked remarks which now it shan't.

XCIX.

As boys love rows, my boyhood liked a squabble;
But at this hour I wish to part in peace, [ble;
Leaving such to the literary rabble,
Whether my verse's fame be doom'd to cease,
While the right hand which wrote it still is able,
Or of some centuries to take a lease; [able,
The grass upon my grave will grow as long,
And sigh to midnight winds, but not to song.

C.

Of poets who come down to us through distance [Fame,
Of time and tongues, the foster babes of
Life seems the smallest portion of existence;
Where twenty ages gather o'er a name,
'Tis as a snowball, which derives assistance
From every flake, and yet rolls on the same,
Even till an iceberg it may chance to grow;
But, after all, tis nothing but cold snow.

CI.

And so great names are nothing more than nominal,
And love of glory's but an airy lust,
Too often in its fury overcoming all
Who would as 'twere identify their dust
From out the wide destruction, which, entombing all, [just"—
Leaves nothing till "the coming of the
Save change: I've stood upon Achilles' tomb,
And heard Troy doubted; time will doubt of Rome.

CII.

The very generations of the dead
Are swept away, and tomb inherits tomb,
Until the memory of an age is fled, [doom:
And, buried, sinks beneath its offspring's
Where are the epitaphs our fathers read?
Save a few glean'd from the sepulchral gloom
Which once-named myriads nameless lie beneath.
And lose their own in universal death.

CIII.

I canter by the spot each afternoon,
Where perish'd, in his fame, the hero-boy,
Who lived too long for men, but died too soon
For human vanity, the young De Foix!
A broken pillar, not uncouthly hewn,
But which neglect is hastening to destroy,
Records Ravenna's carnage on its face, [base.*
While weeds and ordure rankle round the

CIV.

I pass, each day, where Dante's bones are laid:
A little cupola, more neat than solemn,
Protects his dust; but reverence here is paid
To the bard's tomb, and not the warrior's column;
The time must come when both, alike decay'd,
The chieftain's trophy, and the poet's volume, [earth,
Will sink where lie the songs and wars of
Before Pelides' death, or Homer's birth.

CV.

With human blood that column was cemented,
With human filth that column is defiled;
As if the peasant's coarse contempt were vented
To show his loathing of the spot he soil'd:
Thus is the trophy used, and thus lamented
Should ever be those bloodhounds, from whose wild
Instinct of gore and glory earth has known
Those sufferings Dante saw in hell alone.

CVI.

Yet there will still be bards; though fame is smoke, [thought;
Its fumes are frankincense to human
And the unquiet feelings, which first woke
Song in the world, will seek what then they sought;
As on the beach the waves at last are broke,
Thus to their extreme verge the passions brought,
Dash into poetry, which is but passion,
Or at least was so ere it grew a fashion.

CVII.

If in the course of such a life as was
At once adventurous and contemplative,
Men who partake all passions as they pass,
Acquire the deep and bitter power to give
Their images again, as in a glass,
And in such colors that they seem to live;
You may do right forbidding them to show 'em,
But spoil (I think) a very pretty poem.

CVIII.

O ye who make the fortunes of all books!
Benign Ceruleans of the second sex!
Who advertise new poems by your looks,
Your "imprimatur" will ye not annex?
What! must I go to the oblivious cooks?
Those Cornish plunderers of Parnassian [wrecks?
Ah! must I then the only minstrel be,
Proscribed from tasting your Castalian tea?

CIX.

What! can I prove "a lion" then no more?
A ball-room bard, a foolscap, hot-press darling?
To bear the compliments of many a bore,
And sigh, "I can't get out," like Yorick's starling;
Why then I'll swear, as poet Wordy swore,
(Because the world won't read him, always snarling),
That taste is gone, that fame is but a lottery,
Drawn by the blue-coat misses of a coterie.

CX.

O "darkly, deeply, beautifully blue,"
As some one somewhere sings about the sky,
And I, ye learned ladies, say of you:
They say your stockings are so (Heaven knows why,
I have examined few pair of that hue):
Blue as the garters which serenely lie
Round the patrician left-legs, which adorn
The festal midnight and the levée morn.

CXI.

Yet some of you are most seraphic creatures—
But times are altered since, a rhyming lover,
You read my stanzas, and I read your features;
And—but no matter, all those things are over;
Still, I have no dislike to learned natures,
For sometimes such a world of virtues cover;
I knew one woman of that purple school,
The loveliest, chastest, best, but—quite a fool.

CXII.

Humboldt, "the first of travelers," but not
The last, if late accounts be accurate,
Invented, by some name I have forgot,
As well as the sublime discovery's date,
An airy instrument, with which he sought
To ascertain the atmospheric state,
By measuring "the *intensity of blue*";*
O; Lady Daphne, let me measure you!

CXIII.

But to the narrative.—The vessel, bound
With slaves to sell off in the capital,
After the usual process, might be found
At anchor under the seraglio wall; [sound,
Her cargo, from the plague being safe and
Were landed in the market, one and all,
And there, with Georgians, Russians, and Circassians, [sions.
Bought up for different purposes and pas-

CXIV.

Some went off dearly; fifteen hundred dollars
For one Circassian, a sweet girl, were given,
Warranted virgin; beauty's brightest colors
Had deck'd her out in all the hues of heaven:
Her sale sent home some disappointed bawlers,

* The pillar which commemorates the battle of Ravenna is about two miles from the city, on the opposite side of the river to the road towards Forli. Gaston de Foix gained the battle and was killed in it.

* The cyanometer, an instrument for ascertaining the intensity of the blue color of the sky.

Who bade on till the hundreds reach'd eleven;
But when the offer went beyond, they knew
'Twas for the Sultan, and at once withdrew.

CXV.

Twelve negresses from Nubia brought a price
Which the West Indian market scarce would bring;
Though Wilberforce, at last, has made it twice
What 'twas ere Abolition; and the thing
Need not seem very wonderful, for vice
Is always much more splendid than a king;
The virtues, even the most exalted, Charity,
Are saving—vice spares nothing for a rarity.

CXVI.

But for the destiny of this young troop, [Jews,
How some were bought by pashas, some by
How some to burdens were obliged to stoop,
And others rose to the command of crews
As renegadoes; while, in hapless group,
Hoping no very old vizier might choose,
The females stood, as one by one they pick'd 'em,
To make a mistress, or fourth wife, or victim:

CXVII.

All this must be reserved for further song;
Also our hero's lot, howe'er unpleasant
(Because this canto has become too long),
Must be postponed discreetly for the pres-
I'm sensible redundancy is wrong, [ent.
But could not for the muse of me put less
And now delay the progress of Don Juan, [in't:
Till what is call'd, in Ossian, the fifth Duan.

CANTO THE FIFTH.

1821.

I.

When amatory poets sing their loves
In liquid lines mellifluously bland, [doves,
And pair their rhymes as Venus yokes her
They little think what mischief is in hand;
The greater their success, the worse it proves,
As Ovid's verse may give to understand;
Even Petrarch's self, if judged with due se-
Is the Platonic pimp of all posterity. [verity,

II.

I therefore do denounce all amorous writing,
Except in such a way as not to attract;
Plain—simple—short, and by no means invit-
But with a moral to each error tack'd, [ing,
Form'd rather for instructing than delighting,
And with all passions in their turn attack'd;
Now, if my Pegasus should not be shod ill,
This poem will become a moral model.

III.

The European with the Asian shore
Sprinkled with palaces: the ocean stream *
Here and there studded with a seventy-four;
Sophia's cupola, with golden gleam;
The cypress groves; Olympus high and hoar;
The twelve isles, and the more than I could dream,
Far less describe, present the very view
Which charm'd the charming Mary Montagu.

IV.

I have a passion for the name of "Mary,"
For once it was a magic sound to me;
And still it half calls up the realms of fairy,
Where I beheld what never was to be:
All feelings changed, but this was last to vary,
A spell from which even yet I'm not quite free;
But I grow sad—and let a tale grow cold,
Which must not be pathetically told.

V.

The wind swept down the Euxine, and the wave
Broke foaming o'er the blue Symplegades;
'Tis a grand sight, from off "the Giant's Grave," †
To watch the progress of those rolling seas
Between the Bosphorus, as they lash and lave
Europe and Asia, you being quite at ease;
There's not a sea the passenger o'er pukes in,
Turns up more dangerous breakers than the Euxine.

VI.

'Twas a raw day of autumn's bleak beginning,
When nights are equal, but not so the days;
The Parcæ then cut short the further spinning
Of seamen's fates, and the loud tempests raise
The waters, and repentance for past sinning
In all who o'er the great deep take their ways:
They vow to amend their lives, and yet they [won't.
don't;
Because, if drown'd, they can't—if spared, they

VII.

A crowd of shivering slaves, of every nation,
And age, and sex, were in the market ranged;
Each bevy with the merchant in his station:
Poor creatures, their good looks were sadly changed;
All save the blacks seem'd jaded with vexation,
From friends, and home, and freedom, far estranged:

---

* Ὠκεανοιο ῥεοιο. This expression of Homer has been much criticised. It hardly answers to our Atlantic ideas of the ocean, but is sufficiently applicable to the Hellespont and the Bosphorus, with the Ægean intersected with islands.

† "The Giant's Grave" is a height on the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus, much frequented by holiday parties, like Harrow and Highgate.

The negroes more philosophy display'd.
Used to it, no doubt, as eels are to be flay'd.

VIII.

Juan was juvenile, and thus was full,
As most of his age are, of hope and health;
Yet I must own he look'd a little dull, [stealth;
And now and then a tear stole down by
Perhaps his recent loss of blood might pull
His spirit down; and then the loss of wealth,
A mistress, and such comfortable quarters,
To be put up for auction amongst Tartars,

IX.

Were things to shake a stoic; ne'ertheless,
Upon the whole his carriage was serene;
His figure and the splendor of his dress, [seen,
Of which some gilded remnants still were
Drew all eyes on him, giving them to guess
He was above the vulgar by his mien; [some;
And then, though pale, he was so very hand-
And then—they calculated on his ransom.

X.

Like a backgammon board the place was dotted [for sale,
With whites and blacks, in groups on show
Though rather more irregularly spotted: [pale.
Some bought the jet, while others chose the
It chanced, among the other people lotted,
A man of thirty, rather stout and hale,
With resolution in his dark grey eye,
Next Juan stood, till some might choose to buy.

XI.

He had an English look: that is, was square
In make, of a complexion white and ruddy:
Good teeth, with curling, rather dark brown hair; [study,
And, it might be from thought, or toil, or
An open brow a little mark'd with care:
One arm had on a bandage rather bloody;
And there he stood with such *sang froid*, that greater [tator.
Could scarce be shown even by a mere spec-

XII.

But seeing at his elbow a mere lad,
Of a high spirit evidently, though
At present weigh'd down by a doom which had
O'erthrown even men, he soon began to show
A kind of blunt compassion for the sad
Lot of so young a partner in the woe,
Which for himself he seem'd to deem no worse
Than any other scrape, a thing of course.

XIII.

"My boy,"—said he, "amidst this motley crew
Of Georgians, Russians, Nubians, and what
All ragamuffins differing but in hue, [not,
With whom it is our luck to cast our lot,
The only gentlemen seem I and you;
So let us be acquainted, as we ought:
If I could yield you any consolation [nation?"
'Twould give me pleasure.—Pray, what is your

XIV.

When Juan answer'd, "Spanish," he replied,
"I thought, in fact, you could not be a Greek;
Those servile dogs are not so proudly eyed:
Fortune has play'd you here a pretty freak,
But that's her way with all men, till they're tried; [week:
But never mind—she'll turn, perhaps, next
She has served me also much the same as you,
Except that I have found it nothing new."

XV.

"Pray, sir," said Juan, "if I may presume,
What brought you here?"—"Oh, nothing very rare— [doom,
Six Tartars and a drag-chain——" —"To this
But what conducted, if the question's fair,
Is that which I would learn."—"I served for some [there;
Months with the Russian army here and
And, taking lately, by Suwarrow's bidding,
A town, was ta'en myself, instead of Widdin."

XVI.

"Have you no friends?"—"I had; but by God's blessing, [Now
Have not been troubled with them lately.
I have answered all your questions without pressing,
And you an equal courtesy should show."
"Alas!" said Juan, "'twere a tale distressing,
And long, besides."—"Oh, if 'tis really so,
You're right, on both accounts, to hold your tongue;
A sad tale saddens doubly, when 'tis long.

XVII.

"But droop not: Fortune, at your time of life,
Although a female moderately fickle,
Will hardly leave you (as she's not your wife)
For any length of days in such a pickle;
To strife, too, with our fate were such a strife
As if the corn-sheaf should oppose the sickle:
Men are the sport of circumstances, when
The circumstances seem the sport of men."

XVIII.

"'Tis not," said Juan, "for my present doom
I mourn, but for the past;—I loved a maid":
He paused, and his dark eye grew full of gloom;
A single tear upon his eyelash stay'd [gloom;
A moment, and then dropp'd; "but to resume,
'Tis not my present lot, as I have said,
Which I deplore so much: for I have borne
Hardships which have the hardiest overworn,

XIX.

"On the rough deep. But this last blow"—and here
He stopp'd again, and turn'd away his face.
"Ah!" quoth his friend, "I thought it would appear
That there had been a lady in the case;
And these are things which ask a tender tear,
Such as I too would shed, if in your place;

I cried upon my first wife's dying day,
And also when my second ran away:

XX.

"My third——" "Your third!" quoth Juan, turning round, [three?"
"You scarcely can be thirty: have you
"No—only two at present above ground;
Surely 'tis nothing wonderful to see
One person thrice in holy wedlock bound!"
"Well, then, your third," said Juan, "what did she?
She did not run away too—did she, sir?"
"No, faith."—"What then?"—"I ran away from her."

XXI.

"You take things coolly, sir," said Juan.
"Why,"
Replied the other, "what can a man do?
There still are many rainbows in your sky,
But mine have vanish'd. All, when life is new, [high;
Commence with feelings warm and prospects
But time strips our illusions of their hue,
And one by one in turn, some grand mistake
Casts off its bright skin yearly, like the snake.

XXII.

"'Tis true, it gets another bright and fresh,
Or fresher, brighter; but, the year gone through,
This skin must go the way too of all flesh,
Or sometimes only wear a week or two;—
Love's the first net which spreads its deadly mesh:
Ambition, Avarice, Vengeance, Glory glue
The glittering lime-twigs of our latter days,
Where still we flutter on for pence or praise."

XXIII.

"All this is very fine, and may be true,"
Said Juan; "but I really don't see how
It betters present times with me or you."
"No?" quoth the other; "yet you will allow,
By setting things in their right point of view,
Knowledge at least is gain'd: for instance, now
We know what slavery is; and our disasters
May teach us better to behave, when masters."

XXIV.

"Would we were masters now, if but to try
Their present lessons on our Pagan friends here,"
Said Juan, swallowing a heart-burning sigh;
"Heaven help the scholar whom his fortune sends here!"
"Perhaps we shall be one day, by and by,"
Rejoin'd the other, "when our bad luck mends here; [us)
Meantime (yon old black eunuch seems to eye
I wish to G—d that somebody would buy us!

XXV.

"But, after all, what *is* our present state?
'Tis bad, and may be better—all men's lot:
Most men are slaves, none more so than the great, [not;
To their own whims, and passions, and what
Society itself, which should create
Kindness, destroys what little we had got:
To feel for none is the true social art
Of the world's stoics—men without a heart."

XXVI.

Just now a black old neutral personage
Of the third sex stept up, and peering over
The captives, seem'd to mark their looks, and
And capabilities, as to discover [age,
If they were fitted for the purposed cage:
No lady e'er is ogled by a lover,
Horse by a blackleg, broadcloth by a tailor,
Fee by a counsel, felon by a jailor,

XXVII.

As is a slave by his intended bidder. [tures;
'Tis pleasant purchasing our fellow-crea-
And all are to be sold, if you consider [features
Their passions, and are dext'rous: some by
Are brought up, others by a warlike leader;
Some by a place—as tend their years or natures;
The most by ready cash—but all have prices,
From crowns to kicks, according to their vices.

XXVIII.

The eunuch, having eyed them o'er with care,
Turn'd to the merchant, and began to bid
First but for one, and after for the pair; [did!
They haggled, wrangled, swore too—so they
As though they were in a mere Christian fair,
Cheapening an ox, an ass, a lamb, or kid;
So that their bargain sounded like a battle
For this superior yoke of human cattle.

XXIX.

At last they settled into simple grumbling,
And pulling out reluctant purses, and
Turning each piece of silver o'er, and tumbling
Some down, and weighing others in their hand,
And by mistake sequins with paras jumbling,*
Until the sum was accurately scann'd;
And then the merchant, giving change, and signing
Receipts in full, began to think of dining.

XXX.

I wonder if his appetite was good?
Or, if it were, if also his digestion? [intrude,
Methinks at meals some odd thoughts might
And conscience ask a curious sort of question
About the right divine, how far we should
Sell flesh and blood. When dinner has oppressed one,
I think it is perhaps the gloomiest hour
Which turns up out of the sad twenty-four.

XXXI.

Voltaire says "No"; he tells you that Candide
Found life most tolerable after meals:

* The Turkish zecchino is a gold coin worth 7s. 6d.: the para is not quite equal to an English halfpenny.

He's wrong—unless man were a pig, indeed,
Repletion rather adds to what he feels,
Unless he's drunk, and then no doubt he's freed [reels.
From his own brain's oppression, while he
Of food I think with Philip's son,* or rather
Ammon's (ill pleased with one world and one father);

XXXII.

I think, with Alexander, that the act
Of eating, with another act or two,
Make us feel our mortality in fact
Redoubled; when a roast and a ragout,
And fish, and soup, by some side-dishes back'd,
Can give us either pain or pleasure, who
Would pique himself on intellects, whose use
Depends so much upon the gastric juice?

XXXIII.

The other evening ('twas on Friday last)—
This is a fact, and no poetic fable—
Just as my great-coat was about me cast,
My hat and gloves still lying on the table,
I heard a shot—'twas eight o'clock scarce past—
And, running out as fast as I was able,
I found the military commandant [pant.†
Stretch'd in the street, and able scarce to

XXXIV.

Poor fellow! for some reason, surely bad,
They had slain him with five slugs, and left him there
To perish on the pavement; so I had
Him borne into the house, and up the stair,
And stripp'd, and look'd to. But why should I add
More circumstances? Vain was every care;
The man was gone. In some Italian quarrel,
Kill'd by five bullets from an old gun-barrel.‡

XXXV.

I gazed upon him, for I knew him well;
Add though I have seen many corpses, never
Saw one, whom such an accident befell,
So calm: though pierced through stomach, heart, and liver,
He seem'd to sleep—for you could scarcely tell
(As he bled inwardly, no hideous river
Of gore divulged the cause) that he was dead;
So as I gazed on him, I thought or said—

XXXVI.

"Can this be death? Then what is life or death? [still he slept—
Speak!" but he spoke not. "Wake!" but
"But yesterday, and who had mightier breath?
A thousand warriors by his word were kept
In awe: he said, as the centurion saith,
'Go,' and he goeth: 'come,' and forth he stepp'd.
The trump and bugle till he spake were dumb— [drum."
And now nought left him but the muffled

XXXVII.

And they who waited once and worshipp'd—they [bed
With their rough faces throng'd about the
To gaze once more on the commanding clay,
Which for the last, though not the first, time bled:
And such an end! that he who many a day
Had faced Napoleon's foes until they fled—
The foremost in the charge or in the sally,
Should now be butcher'd in a civic alley.

XXXVIII.

The scars of his old wounds were near his new,
Those honorable scars which brought him fame;
And horrid was the contrast to the view—
But let me quit the theme; as such things claim
Perhaps even more attention than is due
From me. I gazed (as oft I've gazed the same)
To try if I could wrench aught out of death,
Which should confirm, or shake, or make, a faith;

XXXIX.

But it was all a mystery. Here we are,
And there we go—but *where?* For bits of
Or three, or two, or one, send very far! [lead,
And is this blood, then, form'd but to be
Can every element our elements mar? [shed?
And air—earth—water—fire live—and we dead? [No more;
We, whose minds comprehend all things?
But let us to the story as before.

XL.

The purchaser of Juan and acquaintance
Bore off his bargains to a gilded boat,
Embark'd himself and them, and off they went thence
As fast as oars could pull and water float;
They look'd like persons being led to sentence,
Wondering what next, till the caique* was
Up in a little creek below a wall [brought
O'ertopp'd with cypresses; dark-green and tall.

XLI.

Here their conductor, tapping at the wicket
Of a small iron door, 'twas open'd, and
He led them onward, first through a low thicket, [either hand:
Flank'd by large groves, which tower'd on
They almost lost their way, and had to pick it—
For night was closing ere they came to land.
The eunuch made a sign to those on board,
Who row'd off, leaving them, without a word.

* See Plutarch, in "Alex."; Q. Curtius, "Hist. Alex.," etc., etc.

† The assassination alluded to took place on the 8th of December, 1820, in the streets of Ravenna, not a hundred paces from the residence of the writer. The circumstances were as described.

‡ There was found close by him an old gun-barrel, sawn half off; it had just been discharged, and was still warm.

* The light and elegant wherries plying about the quays of Constantinople are so called.

XLII.

As they were plodding on their winding way,
Through orange bowers, and jasmine, and so forth:
(Of which I might have a good deal to say,
There being no such profusion in the North
Of oriental plants, *et cetera*, [worth
But that of late your scribblers think it
Their while to rear whole hotbeds in *their* works,
Because our poet travel'd 'mongst the Turks:)

XLIII.

As they were threading on their way, there came
Into Don Juan's head a thought, which he
Whisper'd to his companion: 'twas the same
Which might have then occurr'd to you or me. [shame
"Methinks," said he, "it would be no great
If we should strike a stroke to set us free;
Let's knock that old black fellow on the head,
And march away—'twere easier done than said."

XLIV.

"Yes," said the other, "and when done, what then?
How get out? How the devil got we in?
And when we once were fairly out, and when
From Saint Bartholomew we have saved our
To-morrow'd see us in some other den, [skin,*
And worse off than we hitherto have been;
Besides, I'm hungry, and just now would take,
Like Esau, for my birthright a beefsteak.

XLV.

"We must be near some place of man's abode;—
For the old negro's confidence in creeping,
With his two captives, by so queer a road,
Shows that he thinks his friends have not been sleeping;
A single cry would bring them all abroad:
'Tis therefore better looking before leaping— [through;
And there, you see, this turn has brought us
By Jove, a noble palace!—lighted, too."

XLVI.

It was indeed a wide extensive building [front
Which open'd on their view, and o'er the
There seem'd to be besprent a deal of gilding
And various hues, as is the Turkish wont—
A gaudy taste: for they are little skill'd in
The arts of which these lands were once the fount:
Each villa on the Bosphorus looks a screen
New painted, or a pretty opera scene.

XLVII.

And nearer as they came, a genial savor
Of certain stews, and roast meats, and pilaus, [favor,
Things which in hungry mortals' eyes find
Made Juan in his harsh intentions pause,
And put himself upon his good behavior:
His friend, too, adding a new saving clause,
Said, "In heaven's name let's get some supper now,
And then I'm with you, if you're for a row."

XLVIII.

Some talk of an appeal unto some passion,
Some to men's feelings, others to their reason:
The last of these was never much the fashion,
For reason thinks all reasoning out of season. [on,
Some speakers whine, and others lay the lash
But more or less continue still to tease on,
With arguments according to their "forte";
But no one ever dreams of being short.—

XLIX.

But I digress: of all appeals—although
I grant the power of pathos and of gold,
Of beauty, flattery, threats, a shilling—no
Method's more sure at moments to take hold
Of the best feelings of mankind, which grow
More tender, as we every day behold,
Than that all-softening, overpowering knell,
The tocsin of the soul—the dinner-bell.

L.

Turkey contains no bells, and yet men dine;
And Juan and his friend, albeit they heard
No Christian knoll to table, saw no line
Of lackeys usher to the feast prepared,
Yet smelt roast meat, beheld a huge fire shine,
And cooks in motion with their clean arms bared;
And gazed around them to the left and right,
With the prophetic eye of appetite.

LI.

And giving up all notions of resistance,
They follow'd close behind their sable guide,
Who little thought that his own crack'd existence
Was on the point of being set aside: [ence
He motion'd them to stop at some small distance,
And knocking at the gate, 'twas open'd wide,
And a magnificent large hall displayed
The Asian pomp of Ottoman parade.

LII.

I won't describe: description is my forte, [days,
But every fool describes, in these bright
His wondrous journey to some foreign court,
And spawns his quarto, and demands your praise—
Death to the publisher, to him 'tis sport; [ways,
While nature, tortured twenty thousand
Resigns herself, with exemplary patience,
To guide-books, rhymes, tours, sketches, illustrations.

LIII.

Along this hall, and up and down, some, squatted
Upon their hams, were occupied at chess;

* St. Bartholomew was flayed alive.

Others in monosyllable talk chatted,
And some seem'd much in love with their own dress,
And divers smoked superb pipes decorated
With amber mouths, of greater price, or less;
And several strutted, others slept, and some
Prepared for supper with a glass of rum.*

LIV.

As the black eunuch enter'd with his brace
Of purchased Infidels, some raised their eyes
A moment, without slackening from their pace;
But those who sate ne'er stirr'd in any wise:
One or two stared the captives in the face,
Just as one views a horse to guess his price;
Some nodded to the negro from their station,
But no one troubled him with conversation.

LV.

He leads them through the hall, and, without stopping,
On through a further range of goodly rooms,
Splendid, but silent, save in *one*, where, dropping, [glooms
A marble fountain† echoes through the
Of night, which robe the chamber, or where popping
Some female head most curiously presumes
To thrust its black eyes through the door or lattice,
As wondering what the devil noise that is.

LVI.

Some faint lamps, gleaming from the lofty walls,
Gave light enough to hint their farther way,
But not enough to show the imperial halls
In all the flashing of their full array:
Perhaps there's nothing—I'll not say appals,
But saddens more by night as well as day,
Than an enormous room, without a soul
To break the lifeless splendor of the whole.

LVII.

Two or three seem so little, one seems nothing,
In deserts, forests, crowds, or by the shore,
There solitude, we know, has her full growth in
The spots which were her realms forever-
But in a mighty hall or gallery, both in [more:
More modern buildings and those built of
A kind of death comes o'er us all alone, [yore,
Seeing what's meant for many with but one.

LVIII.

A neat, snug study, on a winter's night,
A book, friend, single lady, or a glass
Of claret, sandwich, and an appetite, [pass;
Are things which make an English evening
Though, *certes*, by no means so grand a sight
As is a theatre lit up by gas.
I pass my evenings in long galleries solely;
And that's the reason I'm so melancholy.

LIX.

Alas! man makes that great which makes him little;
I grant you in a church 'tis very well;
What speaks of Heaven should by no means be brittle, [tell
But strong and lasting, till no tongue can
Their names who rear'd it; but huge houses fit ill— [Adam fell:
And huge tombs worse—mankind, since
Methinks the story of the tower of Babel [able.
Might teach them this much better than I'm

LX.

Babel was Nimrod's hunting-box, and then
A town of gardens, walls and wealth amazing,
Where Nebuchadonosor, king of men,
Reign'd, till one summer's day he took to grazing,
And Daniel tamed the lions in their den,
The people's awe and admiration raising:
'Twas famous, too, for Thisbe and for Pyramus,
And the calumniated queen Semiramis.*

LXI.

That injured queen, by chroniclers so coarse
Has been accused (I doubt not by conspiracy)
Of an improper friendship for her horse [esy).
(Love, like religion, sometimes runs to her-
This monstrous tale had probably its source
(For such exaggerations here and there I see) [rier".
In writing "Courser" by mistake for "Cou-
I wish the case would come before a jury here.

LXII.

But to resume,—should there be (what may not
Be in these days?) some infidels, who don't,
Because they can't find out the very spot
Of that same Babel, or because they won't
(Though Claudius Rich, Esquire, some bricks has got,
And written lately two memoirs upon't),
Believe the Jews, those unbelievers, who
Must be believed, though they believe not you.

LXIII.

Yet let them think that Horace has exprest
Shortly and sweetly the masonic folly
Of those, forgetting the great place of rest,
Who give themselves to architecture wholly
We know where things and men must end at.
A moral (like all mortals) melancholy, [best
And *Et sepulcri immemor struis domos*,

* In Turkey nothing is more common than for the Mussulmans to take several glasses of strong spirits by way of appetizer. I have seen them take as many as six of raki before dinner, and swear that they dined the better for it. I tried the experiment, but was like the Scotchman, who, having heard that birds called kittiwakes were admirable whets, ate six of them, and complained that "he was no hungrier than when he began."

† A common furniture. I recollect being received by Ali Pacha in a room containing a marble basin and fountain playing in the centre, etc., etc.

* Babylon was enlarged by Nimrod, strengthened and beautified by Nebuchadonosor, and rebuilt by Semiramis.

Shows that we build when we should but entomb us.

LXIV.

At last they reach'd a quarter most retired,
Where echo woke as if from a long slumber;
Though full of all things which could be desired, [ber
One wonder'd what to do with such a numOf articles which nobody required; [ber
Here wealth had done its utmost to encumWith furniture an exquisite apartment,
Which puzzled Nature much to know what Art meant.

LXV.

It seem'd, however, but to open on
A range or suite of further chambers, which
Might lead to heaven knows where; but in this
The movables were prodigally rich: [one
Sofas 'twas half a sin to sit upon,
So costly were they; carpets every stitch
Of workmanship so rare, they made you wish
You could glide o'er them like a golden fish.

LXVI.

The black, however, without hardly deigning
A glance at that which wrapt the slaves in wonder, [staining,
Trampled what they scarce trod for fear of
As if the milky way their feet was under
With all its stars; and with a stretch attaining
A certain press or cupboard niched in yonder—
In that remote recess which you may see—
Or if you don't, the fault is not in me,—

LXVII.

I wish to be perspicuous; and the black,
I say, unlocking the recess, pull'd forth
A quantity of clothes fit for the back
Of any Mussulman, whate'er his worth;
And of variety there was no lack— [dearth,
And yet, though I have said there was no
He chose himself to point out what he thought
Most proper for the Christians he had bought.

LXVIII.

The suit he thought most suitable to each
Was, for the elder and the stouter, first
A Candiote cloak, which to the knee might reach, [burst,
And trousers not so tight that they would
But such as fit an Asiatic breech; [nurst,
A shawl, whose folds in Cashmere had been
Slippers of saffron, dagger rich and handy;
In short, all things which form a Turkish Dandy.

LXIX.

While he was dressing, Baba, their black friend,
Hinted the vast advantages which they
Might probably obtain both in the end,
If they would but pursue the proper way
Which fortune plainly seem'd to recommend;
And then he added that he needs must say,

"'Twould greatly tend to better their condition
If they would condescend to circumcision.

LXX.

"For his own part, he really should rejoice
To see them true believers, but no less
Would leave his proposition to their choice."
The other, thanking him for this excess
Of goodness, in thus leaving them a voice
In such a trifle, scarcely could express
"Sufficiently" (he said) "his approbation
Of all the customs of this polish'd nation.

LXXI.

"For his own share, he saw but small objection
To so respectable an ancient rite;
And after swallowing down a slight refection,
For which he own'd a present appetite,
He doubted not a few hours of reflection
Would reconcile him to the business quite."
"Will it?" said Juan, sharply; "Strike me dead,
But they as soon shall circumcise my head!

LXXII.

"Cut off a thousand heads before——"
"Now, pray,"
Replied the other, "do not interrupt;
You put me out in what I had to say.
Sir!—as I said, as soon as I have supped,
I shall perpend if your proposal may
Be such as I can properly accept;
Provided always your great goodness still
Remits the matter to our own free-will."

LXXIII.

Baba eyed Juan, and said, "Be so good
As dress yourself"—and pointed out a suit
In which a princess with great pleasure would
Array her limbs; but Juan, standing mute,
As not being in a masquerading mood,
Gave it a slight kick with his Christian foot:
And when the old negro told him to "get ready,"
Replied, "Old gentleman, I'm not a lady."

LXXIV.

"What you may be I neither know nor care,"
Said Baba, "but pray do as I desire;
I have no more time nor many words to spare."
"At least," said Juan, "sure I may inquire
The cause of this odd travesty."—"Forbear,"
Said Baba, "to be curious; 'twill transpire,
No doubt, in proper place, and time, and season:
I have no authority to tell the reason."

LXXV.

"Then if I do," said Juan, "I'll be ——"
"Hold!"
Rejoin'd the negro, "pray be not provoking;
This spirit's well, but it may wax too bold,
And you will find us not too fond of joking."
"What, sir," said Juan, "shall it e'er be told

That I unsex'd my dress"? But Baba, stroking [call
The things down, said, "Incense me, and I
Those who will leave you of no sex at all.

LXXVI.

"I offer you a handsome suit of clothes:
A woman's, true; but then there is a cause
Why you should wear them."—"What, though my soul loathes [pause,
The effeminate garb?"—thus, after a short
Sigh'd Juan, muttering also some slight oaths,
"What the devil shall I do with all this gauze?"
Thus he profanely term'd the finest lace
Which e'er set off a marriage-morning face.

LXXVII.

And then he swore; and, sighing, on he slipp'd
A pair of trousers of flesh-color'd silk;
Next with a virgin zone he was equipp'd—
Which girt a light chemise as white as milk;
But tugging on his petticoat, he tripp'd,
Which—as we say—or as the Scotch say, *whilk*
(The rhyme obliges me to this; sometimes
Monarchs are less imperative than rhymes)—

LXXVIII.

Whilk, which (or what you please), was owing to
His garment's novelty, and his being awkward—
And yet at last he managed to get through
His toilet, though no doubt a little backward:
The negro Baba help'd a little too, [hard;
When some untoward part of raiment stuck
And, wrestling both his arms into a gown,
He paused, and took a survey up and down.

LXXIX.

One difficulty still remain'd—his hair
Was hardly long enough; but Baba found
So many false long tresses all to spare,
That soon his head was most completely crown'd,
After the manner then in fashion there;
And this addition with such gems was bound
As suited the *ensemble* of his toilet,
While Baba made him comb his hair, and oil it.

LXXX.

And now, being femininely all array'd,
With some small aid from scissors, paint, and tweezers,
He look'd in almost all respects a maid, [sirs,
And Baba smilingly exclaim'd, "You see,
A perfect transformation here display'd:
And now, then, you must come along with me, sirs, [twice,
That is—the Lady." Clapping his hands
Four blacks were at his elbow in a trice.

LXXXI.

"You, sir," said Baba, nodding to the one,
"Will please to accompany those gentlemen
To supper; but you, worthy Christian nun,
Will follow me. No trifling, sir; for when
I say a thing it must at once be done.
What fear you? Think you this a lion's den?
Why, 'tis a palace, where the truly wise
Anticipate the Prophet's paradise.

LXXXII.

"You fool! I tell you no one means you harm."
"So much the better," Juan said, "for them;
Else they shall feel the weight of this my arm,
Which is not quite so light as you may deem.
I yield thus far: but soon will break the charm,
If any take me for that which I seem;
So that I trust, for everybody's sake,
That this disguise may lead to no mistake."

LXXXIII.

"Blockhead! come on, and see," quoth Baba; while
Don Juan, turning to his comrade, who,
Though somewhat grieved, could scarce forbear a smile
Upon the metamorphosis in view,— [soil
"Farewell"! they mutually exclaim'd, "this
Seems fertile in adventures strange and new;
One's turn'd half Mussulman, and one a maid,
By this old black enchanter's unsought aid."

LXXXIV.

"Farewell!" said Juan: "should we meet no more,
I wish you a good appetite."—"Farewell!"
Replied the other; "though it grieves me sore:
When we next meet, we'll have a tale to tell;
We needs must follow when Fate puts from shore. [once fell."
Keep your good name, though Eve herself
"Nay," quoth the maid, "the Sultan's self shan't carry me,
Unless his Highness promises to marry me."

LXXXV.

And thus they parted, each by separate doors;
Baba led Juan onward, room by room,
Through glittering galleries and o'er marble floors,
Till a gigantic portal through the gloom,
Haughty and huge, along the distance lowers:
And wafted far arose a rich perfume;
It seem'd as though they came upon a shrine,
For all was vast, still, fragrant, and divine.

LXXXVI.

The giant door was broad, and bright, and high, [guise;
Of gilded bronze, and carved in curious
Warriors thereon were battling furiously;
Here stalks the victor, there the vanquish'd lies;
There captives led in triumph droop the eye,
And in perspective many a squadron flies:
It seems the work of times before the line
Of Rome transplanted fell with Constantine.

LXXXVII.

This massy portal stood at the wide close
Of a huge hall, and on its either side
Two little dwarfs, the least you could suppose,
Were sate, like ugly imps, as if allied
In mockery to the enormous gate which rose
O'er them in almost pyramidic pride;
The gate so splendid was in all its *features*,*
You never thought about those little creatures

LXXXVIII.

Until you nearly trod on them, and then
You started back in horror to survey [men,
The wondrous hideousness of those small
Whose color was not black, nor white, nor grey,
But an extraneous mixture, which no pen
Can trace, although perhaps the pencil may: [dumb—
They were mis-shapen pigmies, deaf and
Monsters, who cost a no less monstrous sum.

LXXXIX.

Their duty was—for they were strong, and though [times—
They look'd so little, did strong things at
To ope this door, which they could really do,
The hinges being as smooth as Rogers' rhymes; [bow,
And now and then, with tough strings of the
As is the custom of these Eastern climes,
To give some rebel Pacha a cravat;
For mutes are generally used for that.

XC.

They spoke by signs—that is, spoke not at all;
And, looking like two incubi, they glared
As Baba with his fingers made them fall
To heaving back the portal folds: it scared
Juan a moment, as this pair so small, [stared;
With shrinking serpent optics on him
It was as if their little looks could poison
Or fascinate whome'er they fix'd their eyes on.

XCI.

Before they enter'd Baba paused to hint
To Juan some slight lessons as his guide:
"If you could just contrive," he said, "to stint
That somewhat manly majesty of stride,
'Twould be as well, and (though there's not much in't)
To swing a little less from side to side,
Which has at times an aspect of the oddest;—
And also could you look a little modest,

XCII.

'Twould be convenient, for these mutes have eyes [coats;
Like needles, which may pierce those petti-
And if they should discover your disguise,
You know how near us the deep Bosphorus floats;
And you and I may chance, ere morning rise,
To find our way to Marmora without boats,
Stitch'd up in sacks—a mode of navigation
A good deal practiced here upon occasion." *

XCIII.

With this encouragement he led the way
Into a room still nobler than the last:
A rich confusion form'd a disarray
In such sort, that the eye along it cast
Could hardly carry anything away,
Object on object flash'd so bright and fast;
A dazzling mass of gems, and gold, and glitter,
Magnificently mingled in a litter.

XCIV.

Wealth had done wonders—taste not much; such things
Occur in Orient palaces, and even
In the more chasten'd domes of Western kings
(Of which I have also seen some six or seven),
Where I can't say or gold or diamond flings
Great lustre, there is much to be forgiven;
Groups of bad statues, tables, chairs, and pictures, [tures.
On which I cannot pause to make my stric-

XCV.

In this imperial hall at distance lay,
Under a canopy, and there reclined
Quite in a confidential queenly way,
A lady; Baba stopp'd, and kneeling sign'd
To Juan, who, though not much used to pray,
Knelt down by instinct, wondering in his mind [bended
What all this meant; while Baba bow'd and
His head, until the ceremony ended.

XCVI.

The lady, rising up with such an air
As Venus rose with from the wave, on them
Bent, like an Antelope, a Paphian pair [gem;
Of eyes, which put out each surrounding
And, raising up an arm as moonlight fair,
She sign'd to Baba, who first kiss'd the hem
Of her deep purple robe, and, speaking low,
Pointed to Juan, who remain'd below.

XCVII.

Her presence was as lofty as her state;
Her beauty of that overpowering kind,
Whose force description only would abate:
I'd rather leave it much to your own mind,
Than lessen it by what I could relate
Of forms and features; it would strike you blind,
Could I do justice to the full detail:
So, luckily for both, my phrases fail.

XCVIII.

This much, however, I may add,—her years
Were ripe, they might make six-and-twenty springs;

* Features of a gate—a ministerial metaphor: "the feature upon which this question hinges." See the "Fudge Family," or hear Castlereagh.

* A few years ago the wife of Muchtar Pacha complained to his father of his son's supposed infidelity: he asked with whom, and she had the barbarity to give in a list of the twelve handsomest women in Yanina. They were seized, fastened up in sacks, and drowned in the lake the same night. One of the guards who was present informed me, that not one of the victims uttered a cry, or showed a symptom of terror at so sudden a "wrench from all we know, from all we love."

But there are forms which Time to touch forbears,
And turns aside his scythe to vulgar things,
Such as was Mary's, Queen of Scots. True, tears [wrings
And love destroy, and sapping sorrow
Charms from the charmer; yet some never
Ugly: for instance—Ninon de l'Enclos. [grow

XCIX.

She spake some words to her attendants, who
Composed a choir of girls, ten or a dozen,
And were all clad alike; like Juan, too,
Who wore their uniform, by Baba chosen:
They form'd a very nymph-like looking crew,
Which might have call'd Diana's chorus "cousin,"
As far as outward show may correspond;
I won't be bail for anything beyond.

C.

They bow'd obeisance and withdrew, retiring,
But not by the same door through which came in
Baba and Juan, which last stood admiring,
At some small distance, all he saw within
This strange saloon, much fitted for inspiring
Marvel and praise; for both or none things win:
And I must say, I ne'er could see the very
Great happiness of the "Nil Admirari."

CI.

"Not to admire is all the art I know
(Plain truth, dear Murray, needs few flowers of speech)
To make men happy, or to keep them so"
(So take it in the very words of Creech);
Thus Horace wrote, we all know, long ago;
And thus Pope quotes the precept to re-teach
From his translation; but had *none admired*,
Would Pope have sung, or Horace been inspired?

CII.

Baba, when all the damsels were withdrawn,
Motion'd to Juan to approach, and then
A second time desired him to kneel down,
And kiss the lady's foot; which maxim,
He heard repeated, Juan, with a frown [when
Drew himself up to his full height again,
And said, "It grieved him, but he could not
To any shoe, unless it shod the Pope." [stoop

CIII.

Baba, indignant at this ill-timed pride, [threat
Made fierce remonstrances, and then a
He mutter'd (but the last was given aside)
About a bow-string—quite in vain; not yet
Would Juan bend, though 'twere to Mahomet's bride;
There's nothing in the world like *etiquette*
In kingly chambers or imperial halls,
As also at the race and county balls.

CIV.

He stood like Atlas, with a world of words
About his ears, and nathless would not bend:
The blood of all his line's Castilian lords
Boil'd in his veins, and rather than descend
To stain his pedigree, a thousand swords
A thousand times of him had made an end:
At length, perceiving the "*foot*" could not stand,
Baba proposed that he should kiss the hand.

CV.

Here was an honorable compromise,
A half-way house of diplomatic rest, [guise
Where they might meet in much more peaceful
And Juan now his willingness exprest
To use all fit and proper courtesies,
Adding that this was commonest and best.
For through the South, the custom still commands
The gentleman to kiss the lady's hands.

CVI.

And he advanced, though with but a bad grace,
Though on more *thorough-bred** or fairer
No lips e'er left their transitory trace: [fingers
On such as these the lip too fondly lingers,
And for one kiss would fain imprint a brace,
As you will see, if she you love shall bring hers [ger's
In contact; and sometimes even a fair stran-
An almost twelvemonth's constancy endangers.

CVII.

The lady eyed him o'er and o'er, and bade
Baba retire, which he obey'd in style,
As if well used to the retreating trade;
And taking hints in good part all the while,
He whisper'd Juan not to be afraid;
And, looking on him with a sort of smile,
Took leave with such a face of satisfaction,
As good men wear who have done a virtuous action.

CVIII.

When he was gone, there was a sudden change
I know not what might be the lady's thought,
But o'er her bright brow flash'd a tumult strange, [brought,
And into her clear cheek the blood was
Blood-red as sunset summer clouds which range [wrought
The verge of heaven; and in her large eyes
A mixture of sensations might be scann'd,
Of half voluptuousness and half command.

CIX.

Her form had all the softness of her sex,
Her features all the sweetness of the devil,
When he put on the cherub to perplex

*There is perhaps nothing more distinctive of birth than the hand; it is almost the only sign of blood which aristocracy can generate.

Eve, and paved (God knows how) the road to evil;
The sun himself was scarce more free from
Than she from aught at which the eye could cavil;
Yet somehow there was something somewhere wanting,
As if she rather *order'd* than was *granting*.—

CX.

Something imperial or imperious threw
A chain o'er all she did; that is a chain
Was thrown as 'twere about the neck of you—
And rapture's self will seem almost a pain
With aught which looks like despotism in view.
Our souls at least are free; and 'tis in vain
We would against them make the flesh obey—
The spirit in the end will have its way.

CXI.

Her very smile was haughty, though so sweet;
Her very nod was not an inclination:
There was a self-will even in her small feet,
As though they were quite conscious of her station—
They trod as upon necks; and to complete
Her state (it is the custom of her nation),
A poniard deck'd her girdle, as the sign
She was a sultan's bride (thank Heaven, not mine!)

CXII.

"To hear and to obey" had been from birth
The law of all around her: to fulfil
All phantasies which yielded joy or mirth,
Had been her slaves' chief pleasure, as her will;
Her blood was high, her beauty scarce of earth;
Judge, then, if her caprices e'er stood still;
Had she but been a Christian, I've a notion
We should have found out the "perpetual motion."

CXIII.

Whate'er she saw and coveted, was brought;
Whate'er she did *not* see, if she supposed
It might be seen, with diligence was sought,
And, when 'twas found, straightway the bargain closed:
There was no end unto the things she bought,
Nor to the trouble which her fancies caused;
Yet even her tyranny had such a grace,
The women pardon'd all, except her face.

CXIV.

Juan, the latest of her whims, had caught
Her eye in passing on his way to sale;
She order'd him directly to be bought;
And Baba, who had ne'er been known to fail
In any kind of mischief to be wrought,
At all such auctions knew how to prevail:
She had no prudence, but he had, and this
Explains the garb which Juan took amiss.

CXV.

His youth and features favor'd the disguise,
And should you ask how she, a sultan's bride,
Could risk, or compass, such strange phantasies.
This I must leave sultanas to decide:
Emperors are only husbands in wives' eyes,
And kings and consorts oft are mystified,
As we may ascertain with due precision,
Some by experience, others by tradition.

CXVI.

But to the main point, where we have been tending:—
She now conceived all difficulties past,
And deem'd herself extremely condescending,
When, being made her property at last, fling
Without more preface in her blue eyes blending
Passion and power, a glance on him she cast,
And merely saying, "Christian, canst thou love?" move.
Conceived that phrase was quite enough to

CXVII.

And so it was, in proper time and place;
But Juan, who had still his mind o'erflowing
With Haidée's isle and soft Ionian face,
Felt the warm blood, which in his face was glowing,
Rush back upon his heart, which fill'd apace,
And left his cheeks as pale as snow-drops blowing:
These words went through his soul like Arab-spears,
So that he spoke not, but burst into tears.

CXVIII.

She was a good deal shock'd; not shock'd at tears,
For women shed and use them at their liking:
But there is something when man's eye appears
Wet, still more disagreeable and striking.
A woman's tear-drop melts, a man's half sears,
Like molten lead, as if you thrust a pike in
His heart to force it out; for (to be shorter)
To them 'tis a relief, to us a torture.

CXIX.

And she would have consoled, but knew not how:
Having no equals, nothing which had e'er
Infected her with sympathy till now,
And never having dreamt what 'twas to bear
Aught of a serious, sorrowing kind, although
There might arise some pouting, petty care
To cross her brow, she wonder'd how, so near
Her eyes, another's eye could shed a tear.

CXX.

But nature teaches more than power can spoil;
And when a *strong*, although a strange, sensation
Moves—female hearts are such a genial soil
For kinder feelings, whatsoe'er their nation,
They naturally pour the "wine and oil,"
Samaritans in every situation;
And thus Gulbeyaz, though she knew not why,
Felt an odd glistening moisture in her eye.

CXXI.

But tears must stop, like all things else; and soon
Juan, who for an instant had been moved

To such a sorrow, by the intrusive tone
Of one who dared to ask if "he *had* loved,"
Call'd back the stoic to his eyes, which shone
Bright with the very weakness he reproved;
And, although sensitive to beauty, he
Felt most indignant still at not being free.

CXXII.

Gulbeyaz, for the first time in her days,
Was much embarrass'd, never having met,
In all her life, with aught save prayers and praise;
And as she also risk'd her life to get
Him whom she meant to tutor in love's ways
Into a comfortable tête-à-tête, [tyr;
To lose the hour would make her quite a mar-
And they had wasted now almost a quarter.

CXXIII.

I also would suggest the fitting time,
To gentlemen in any such like case,
That is to say—in a meridian clime;
With us there is more law given to the chase,
But here a small delay forms a great crime:
So recollect that the extremest grace
Is just two minutes for your declaration—
A moment more will hurt your reputation.

CXXIV.

Juan's was good, and might have been still
But he had got Haidée into his head: [better,
However strange, he could not yet forget her,
Which made him seem exceedingly ill-bred.
Gulbeyaz, who look'd on him as her debtor
For having had him to her palace led,
Began to blush up to the eyes, and then
Grow deadly pale, and then blush back again.

CXXV.

At length in an imperial way, she laid
Her hand on his, and bending on him eyes
Which needed not an empire to persuade,
Look'd into his for love, where none replies:
Her brow grew black, but she would not upbraid, [tries;
That being the last thing a prond woman
She rose, and, pausing one chaste moment, threw
Herself upon his breast, and there she grew.

CXXVI.

This was an awkward test, as Juan found,
But he was steel'd by sorrow, wrath, and pride:
With gentle force her white arms he unwound,
And seated her all drooping by his side,
Then, rising haughtily, he glanced around,
And looking coldly in her face, he cried,
"The prison'd eagle will not pair, nor I
Serve a sultana's sensual phantasy.

CXXVII.

"Thou ask'st if I can love? be this the proof
How much I *have* loved—that I love not *thee!*
In this vile garb, the distaff, web, and woof
Were fitter for me: Love is for the free!
I am not dazzled by this splendid roof: [be,
Whate'er thy power, and great it seems to
Heads bow, knees bend, eyes watch around a throne,
And hands obey—our hearts are still our own."

CXXVIII.

This was a truth to us extremely trite: [things;
Not so to her, who ne'er had heard such
She deem'd her least command must yield delight, [kings.
Earth being only made for queens and
If hearts lay on the left side or the right
She hardly knew, to such perfection brings
Legitimacy its born votaries, when
Aware of their due royal rights o'er men.

CXXIX.

Besides, as has been said, she was so fair,
As even in a much humbler lot had made
A kingdom or confusion anywhere,
And also, as may be presum'd, she laid [e'er,
Some stress on charms, which seldom are, if
By their possessors thrown into the shade:
She thought hers gave a double "right divine";
And half of that opinion's also mine.

CXXX.

Remember, or (if you cannot) imagine,
Ye, who have kept your chastity when young,
While some more desperate dowager has been waging [stung
Love with you, and been in the dog-days
By your refusal, recollect her raging!
Or recollect all that was said or sung
On such a subject; then suppose the face
Of a young downright beauty in this case.

CXXXI.

Suppose—but you already have supposed—
The spouse of Potiphar, the Lady Booby,
Phædra, and all which story has disclosed
Of good examples; pity that so few by
Poets and private tutors are exposed,
To educate—ye youth of Europe—you by!
But when you have supposed the few we know,
You can't suppose Gulbeyaz' angry brow.

CXXXII.

A tigress robb'd of young, a lioness,
Or any interesting beast of prey,
Are similes at hand for the distress
Of ladies who cannot have their own way;
But though my turn will not be served with less, [say:
These don't express one half what I should
For what is stealing young ones, few or many,
To cutting short their hopes of having any?

CXXXIII.

The love of offspring's nature's general law,
From tigresses and cubs to ducks and ducklings; [claw,
There's nothing whets the beak, or arms the

Like an invasion of their babes and sucklings;
And all who have seen a human nursery, saw
How mothers love their children's squalls and chucklings:
This strong extreme effect (to tire no longer
Your patience) shows the cause must still be stronger.

CXXXIV.

If I said fire flash'd from Gulbeyaz' eyes, [fire;
'Twere nothing, for her eyes flash'd always
Or said her cheeks assumed the deepest dyes,
I should but bring disgrace upon the dyer,
So supernatural was her passion's rise;
For ne'er till now she knew a check'd desire:
Even ye who know what a check'd woman is,
(Enough, God knows!) would much fall short of this.

CXXXV.

Her rage was but a minute's, and 'twas well—
A moment's more had slain her; but the while
It lasted, 'twas like a short glimpse of hell:
Nought's more sublime than energetic bile,
Though horrible to see, yet grand to tell,
Like ocean warring 'gainst a rocky isle:
And the deep passions, flashing through her
Made her a beautiful embodied storm. [form,

CXXXVI.

A vulgar tempest 'twere to a typhoon,
To match a common fury with her rage;
And yet she did not want to reach the moon,
Like moderate Hotspur on the immortal
Her anger pitch'd into a lower tune, [page:
Perhaps the fault of her soft sex and age—
Her wish was but to "kill, kill, kill," like
Lear's, [tears.
And then her thirst of blood was quench'd in

CXXXVII.

A storm it raged, and like the storm it pass'd,
Pass'd without words—in fact, she could not speak;
And then her sex's shame broke in at last,
A sentiment till then in her but weak;
But now it flow'd in natural and fast,
As water through an unexpected leak,
For she felt humbled—and humiliation
Is sometimes good for people in her station.

CXXXVIII.

It teaches them that they are flesh and blood,
It also gently hints to them that others,
Although of clay, are not yet quite of mud;
That urns and pipkins are but fragile brothers,
And works of the same pottery, bad or good,
Though not all born of the same sires and mothers;
It teaches—Heaven knows only what it teaches,
But sometimes it may mend, and often reaches.

CXXXIX.

Her first thought was to cut off Juan's head;
Her second to cut only his—acquaintance;
Her third to ask him where he had been bred;
Her fourth to rally him into repentance;
Her fifth, to call her maids and go to bed;
Her sixth, to stab herself; her seventh, to sentence
The lash to Baba;—but her grand resource
Was to sit down again, and cry, of course.

CXL.

She thought to stab herself, but then she had
The dagger close at hand, which made it awkward;
For Eastern stays are little made to pad,
So that a poniard pierces, if 'tis stuck hard:
She thought of killing Juan—but, poor lad,
Though he deserved it well for being so backward,
The cutting off his head was not the art
Most likely to attain her aim—his heart.

CXLI.

Juan was moved: he had made up his mind
To be impaled, or quarter'd as a dish
For dogs, or to be slain with pangs refined,
Or thrown to lions, or made baits for fish,
And thus heroically stood resign'd,
Rather than sin—except to his own wish:
But all his great preparatives for dying,
Dissolved like snow before a woman crying.

CXLII.

As through his palms Bob Acres' valor oozed,
So Juan's virtue ebb'd, I know not how;
And first he wonder'd why he had refused;
And then, if matters could be made up now:
And next his savage virtue he accused,
Just as a friar may accuse his vow,
Or as a dame repents her of her oath, [both.
Which mostly ends in some small breach of

CXLIII.

So he began to stammer some excuses:
But words are not enough in such a matter,
Although you borrow'd all that e'er the muses
Have sung, or even a Dandy's dandiest
Or all the figures Castlereagh abuses: [chatter,
Just as a languid smile began to flatter,
His peace was making, but before he ventured
Further, old Baba rather briskly enter'd.

CXLIV.

"Bride of the Sun! and sister of the Moon!"
('Twas thus he spake), "and Empress of the Earth! [tune,
Whose frown would put the spheres all out of
Whose smile makes all the planets dance with mirth, [soon—
Your slave brings tidings—he hopes not too
Which your sublime attention may be worth:
The Sun himself, has sent me, like a ray,
To hint that he is coming up this way."

CXLV.

"Is it," exclaimed Gulbeyaz, "as you say?
I wish to heaven he would not shine till morning!

But bid my women form the milky way.
Hence, my old comet! give the stars due warning—
And, Christian, mingle with them as you may,
And as you'd have me pardon your past scorning—"
Here they were interrupted by a humming
Sound, and then by a cry, "The Sultan's coming!"

CXLVI.

First came her damsels, a decorous file, [white,
And then his Highness' eunuchs, black and
The train might reach a quarter of a mile:
His Majesty was always so polite
As to announce his visits a long while
Before he came, especially at night;
For being the last wife of the Emperor,
She was, of course, the favorite of the four.

CXLVII.

His Highness was a man of solemn port,
Shawl'd to the nose, and bearded to the eyes,
Snatch'd from a prison to preside at court,
His lately bowstrung brother caused his rise;
He was as good a sovereign of the sort
As any mentioned in the histories
Of Cantemir or Knolles, where few shine,
Save Solyman, the glory of their line.*

CXLVIII.

He went to mosque in state, and said his prayers
With more than "Oriental scrupulosity";
He left to his vizier all state affairs,
And show'd but little royal curiosity:
I know not if he had domestic cares—
No process proved connubial animosity;
Four wives and twice five hundred maids, unseen,
Were ruled as calmly as a Christian queen.

CXLIX.

If now and then there happen'd a slight slip,
Little was heard of criminal or crime;
The story scarcely pass'd a single lip—
The sack and sea had settled all in time,
From which the secret nobody could rip:
The public knew no more than does this rhyme;
No scandals made the daily press a curse—
Morals were better, and the fish no worse.

CL.

He saw with his own eyes, the moon was round,
Was also certain that the earth was square,
Because he had journey'd fifty miles, and found
No sign that it was circular anywhere;
His empire also was without a bound:
'Tis true, a little troubled, here and there,
By rebel pachas and encroaching giaours,
But then they never came to the "Seven Towers."

CLI.

Except in shape of envoys, who were sent [ing
To lodge there when a war broke out accord-
To the true law of nations, which ne'er meant,
Those scoundrels who have never had a
Their dirty diplomatic hands, to vent [sword in
Their spleen in making strife, and safely wording
Their lies, yclept despatches, without risk or
The singeing of a single inky whisker.

CLII.

He had fifty daughters and four dozen sons,
Of whom all such as came of age were stow'd,
The former in a palace, where like nuns
They lived till some Bashaw was sent abroad,
When she, whose turn it was, was wed at once,
Sometimes at six years old—though this seems odd,
'Tis true: the reason is, that the Bashaw
Must make a present to his ire-in-law.

CLIII.

His sons were kept in prison, till they grew
Of years to fill a bowstring or the throne,
One or the other, but which of the two
Could yet be known unto the Fates alone;
Meantime the education they went through
Was princely, as the proofs have always shown;
So that the heir-apparent still was found
No less deserving to be hang'd than crown'd.

CLIV.

His Majesty saluted his fourth spouse
With all the ceremonies of his rank,
Who clear'd her sparkling eyes, and smooth'd her brows,
As suits a matron who has play'd a prank;
These must seem doubly mindful of their vows,
To save the credit of their breaking bank;
To no men are such cordial greetings given,
As those whose wives have made them for heaven.

CLV.

His Highness cast around his great black eyes,
And looking as he always look'd, perceived
Juan amongst the damsels in disguise,
At which he seem'd no whit surprised nor grieved;
But just remark'd, with air sedate and wise,
While still a fluttering sigh Gulbeyaz heaved,
"I see you've bought another girl; 'tis pity
That a mere Christian should be half so pretty."

CLVI.

This compliment, which drew all eyes upon
The new-bought virgin, made her blush and shake.

* It may not be unworthy of remark, that Bacon, in his essay, "On Empire," hints that Solyman was the last of his line: on what authority I know not. These are his words: "The destruction of Mustapha was so fatal to Solyman's line, as the succession of the Turks from Solyman, until this day, is suspected to be untrue, and of strange blood, for that Solyman II. was thought to be suppositious." But Bacon, in his historical authorities, is often inaccurate. I could give half-a-dozen instances from his apophthegms only. See Appendix to this Canto.

Her comrades, also, thought themselves undone:
O Mahomet! that his Majesty should take
Such notice of a giaour, while scarce to one
Of them his lips imperial ever spake!
There was a general whisper, toss, and wriggle;
But etiquette forbade them all to giggle.

CLVII.

The Turks do well to shut—at least sometimes—
The women up; because, in sad reality,
Their chastity in these unhappy climes
Is not a thing of that astringent quality,
Which, in the North, prevents precocious crimes,
And makes our snow less pure than our morality;
The sun, which yearly melts the polar ice,
Has quite the contrary effect on vice.

CLVIII.

Thus in the East they are extremely strict,
And wedlock and a padlock mean the same;
Excepting only when the former's picked,
It ne'er can be replaced in proper frame:
Spoilt, as a pipe of claret is when prick'd:
But then their own polygamy's to blame;
Why don't they knead two virtuous souls for life,
Into that moral centaur, man and wife?

CLIX.

Thus far our chronicle; and now we pause,
Though not for want of matter; but 'tis time,
According to the ancient epic laws,
To slacken sail, and anchor with our rhyme.
Let this fifth canto meet with due applause,
The sixth shall have a touch of the sublime:
Meanwhile, as Homer sometimes sleeps, perhaps
You'll pardon to my muse a few short naps.

PREFACE TO CANTOS VI., VII., AND VIII.—1823.

The details of the siege of Ismail, in two of the following cantos (i.e., the seventh and eighth), were taken from the French work entitled "Histoire de la Nouvelle Russie." Some of the incidents attributed to Don Juan really occurred, particularly the circumstance of his saving the infant, which was the actual case of the late Duc de Richelieu, then a young volunteer in the Russian service, and afterwards the founder and benefactor of Odessa, where his name and memory can never cease to be regarded with reverence.

In the course of these cantos, a stanza or two will be found relative to the late Marquis of Londonderry, but written some time before his decease. Had that person's oligarchy died with him, they would have been suppressed: as it is, I am aware of nothing in the manner of his death or of his life to prevent the free expression of the opinions of all whom his whole existence was consumed in endeavoring to enslave. That he was an amiable man in private life, may or not be true; but with this the public have nothing to do: and as to lamenting his death, it will be time enough when Ireland has ceased to mourn for his birth. As a minister, I, for one of millions, looked upon him as one of the most despotic in intention, and the weakest in intellect, that ever tyrannized over a country. It is the first time indeed, since the Normans, that England has been insulted by a minister (at least) who could not speak English and that Parliament permitted itself to be dictated to in the language of Mrs. Malaprop,

Of the manner of his death little need be said, except that, if a poor Radical, such as Waddington or Watson, had cut his throat, he would have been buried in a cross-road, with the usual appurtenances of the stake and mallet. But the minister was an elegant lunatic—a sentimental suicide; he merely cut the "carotid artery" (blessings on their learning!), and lo! the pageant, and the Abbey, and "the syllables of dolor yelled forth" by the newspapers, and the harangue of the coroner in an eulogy over the bleeding body of the deceased (an Antony worthy of such a Cæsar); and the nauseous and atrocious cant of a degraded crew of conspirators against all that is sincere and honorable. In his death he was necessarily one of two things by the law—a felon or a madman—and in either case no great subject for panegyric. In his life he was—what all the world knows, and half of it will feel for years to come, unless his death prove a "moral lesson" to the surviving Sejani* of Europe. It may at least serve as some consolation to the nations that their oppressors are not happy, and in some instances judge so justly of their own actions as to anticipate the sentence of mankind. Let us hear no more of this man; and let Ireland remove the ashes of her Grattan from the sanctuary of Westminster. Shall the patriot of humanity repose by the Werther of politics!!!

With regard to the objections which have been made, on an other score, to the already published cantos of this poem, I shall content myself with two quotations from Voltaire: "La pudeur s'est enfuite des cœurs, et s'est refugiee sur les levres." . . . "Plus les mœurs sont depravees, plus les expressions deviennent mesurees; on croit regagner en langage ce qu'on a perdu en verta."

This is the real fact, as applicable to the degraded and hypocritical mass which leavens the present English generation, and is the only answer they deserve. The hackneyed and lavished title of Blasphemer—which, with Radical, Liberal, Jacobin, Reformer, etc., are the changes which the hirelings are daily ringing in the ears of those who will listen—should be welcome to all who recollect on whom it was originally bestowed. Socrates and Jesus Christ were put to death publicly as blasphemers, and so have been, and may be, many who dare to oppose the most notorious abuses of the name of God and the mind of man. But persecution is not refutation, nor even triumph: the "wretched infidel," as he is called, is probably happier in his prison, than the proudest of his assailants. With his opinions I have nothing to do—they may be right or wrong; but he has suffered for them, and that very suffering for conscience' sake will make more proselytes to deism than the example of heterodox prelates to Christianity, suicide statesmen to oppression, or overpensioned homicides to the impious alliance which insults the world with the name of "Holy!" I have no wish to trample on the dishonored or the dead; but it would be well if the adherents to the classes from whence those persons sprung should abate a little of the cant which is the crying sin of this double-dealing and false-speaking time of selfish spoilers, and—but enough for the present.

Pisa, July, 1822.

* From this number must be excepted Canning. Canning is a genius, almost a universal one, an orator, a wit, a poet, a statesman; and no man of talent can long pursue the path of his late predecessor, Lord C. If ever man saved his country, Canning can, but will he? I, for one, hope so.

CANTO THE SIXTH.

I.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, [rest,
Which, taken at the flood"†—you know the
And most of us have found it, now and then;
At least we think so, though but few have guess'd
The moment, till too late to come again;
But no doubt everything is for the best—
Of which the surest sign is in the end: [mend.
When things are at the worst, they sometimes

† See Shakspeare's "Julius Cæsar," act iv., scene 3.

II.

There is a tide in the affairs of women,
Which, taken at the flood, leads—God knows where:
Those navigators must be able seamen,
Whose charts lay down its currents to a hair;
Not all the reveries of Jacob Behmen,* [pare:
With its strange whirls and eddies, can com-
Men with their heads reflect on this and that—
But women with their hearts on Heaven knows what.

III.

And yet a headlong, headstrong, downright she [risk
Young, beautiful, and daring—who would
A throne, the world, the universe, to be
Beloved in her own way, and rather whisk
The stars from out the sky, than not be free
As are the billows when the breeze is brisk,
Though such as she's a devil (if there be one),
Yet she would make full many a Manichean.

IV.

Thrones, worlds, *et cetera*, are so oft upset
By commonest ambition, that when passion
O'erthrows the same, we readily forget,
Or at the least forgive, the loving rash one.
If Antony be well remember'd yet, [fashion,
'Tis not his conquests keep his name in
But Actium, lost for Cleopatra's eyes,
Outbalances all Cæsar's victories.

V.

He died at fifty, for a queen of forty; [twenty;
I wish their years had been fifteen and
For then wealth, kingdoms, worlds, are but a sport—I [plenty
Remember when, though I had no great
Of worlds to lose, yet still, to pay my court, I
Gave what I had—a heart; as the world went, I [could never
Gave what was worth a world; for worlds
Restore me those pure feelings, gone forever.

VI.

'Twas the boy's "mite," and, like the "widow's," may
Perhaps be weigh'd hereafter, if not now;
But whether such things do or do not weigh,
All who have loved or love will still allow
Life has nought like it. God is love, they say;
And Love's a god, or was before the brow
Of earth was wrinkled by the sins and tears
Of—but Chronology best knows the years.

VII.

We left our hero and third heroine in [mon;
A kind of state more awkward than uncom-
For gentlemen must sometimes risk their skin,
For that sad tempter, a forbidden woman:
Sultans too much abhor this sort of sin,
And don't agree at all with the wise Roman,
Heroic, stoic Cato, the sententious,*
Who lent his lady to his friend Hortensius.

VIII.

I know Gulbeyaz was extremely wrong;
I own it, I deplore it, I condemn it:
But I detest all fiction, even in song, [blame it
And so must tell the truth, howe'er you
Her reason being weak, her passions strong,
She thought that her lord's heart (even could she claim it)
Was scarce enough; for he had fifty-nine
Years, and a fifteen-hundredth concubine.

IX.

I am not, like Cassio, "an arithmetician,"
But by "the bookish theoric" it appears,
If 'tis summ'd up with feminine precision,
That, adding to the account his Highness
The fair Sultana err'd from inanition; [years
For were the Sultan just to all his dears,
She could but claim the fifteen-hundredth par
Of what should be monopoly—the heart.

X.

It is observed that women are litigious
Upon all legal objects of possession.
And not the least so when they are religious
Which doubles what they think of the transgression;
With suits and prosecutions they besiege us
As the tribunals show through many a session,
When they suspect that any one goes shares
In that to which the law makes them sole heirs.

XI.

Now, if this holds good in a Christian land,
The heathen also, though with less latitude
Are apt to carry things with a high hand,
And take what kings call "an imposing attitude";
And for their rights connubial make a stand
When their liege husbands treat them with ingratitude; [claims
And as four wives must have quadruple
The Tigris hath its jealousies, like Thames.

XII.

Gulbeyaz was the fourth, and (as I said)
The favorite; but what's favor amongst four
Polygamy may well be held in dread,
Not only as a sin, but as a *bore:* [wed
Most wise men, with *one* moderate woman
Will scarcely find philosophy for more;
And all (except Mahometans) forbear
To make the nuptial couch a "Bed of Ware."

XIII.

His Highness, the sublimest of mankind,—
So styled according to the usual forms

*A visionary born at Gorlitz in Upper Lusatia in 1575. He founded a sect called Behmenites.

* Cato gave up his wife, Martia, to his friend Hortensius, but, on the death of the latter, took her back again. This conduct was ridiculed by the Romans, who observed, that Martia entered the house of Hortensius very poor, but returned to the bed of Cato loaded with treasures.—PLUTARCH.

Of every monarch, till they are consign'd
To those sad hungry Jacobins, the worms,
Who on the very loftiest kings have dined,—
His Highness gazed upon Gulbeyaz' charms,
Expecting all the welcome of a lover [over).
(A "Highland welcome" * all the wide world

XIV.

Now, here we should distinguish; for howe'er
Kisses, sweet words, embraces, and all that,
May look like what is—neither here nor there,
They are put on as easily as a hat,
Or rather bonnet, which the fair sex wear,
Trimm'd either heads or hearts to decorate,
Which form an ornament, but no more part
Of heads, than their caresses of the heart.

XV.

A slight blush, a soft tremor, a calm kind
Of gentle feminine delight, and shown
More in the eyelids than the eyes, resign'd
Rather to hide what pleases most unknown,
Are the best tokens (to a modest mind)
Of love, when seated on his loveliest throne,
A sincere woman's breast,—for over-*warm*
Or over-*cold* annihilates the charm.

XVI.

For over-warmth, if false, is worse than truth;
If true, 'tis no great lease of its own fire;
For no one, save in very early youth,
Would like (I think) to trust all to desire,
Which is but a precarious bond, in sooth,
And apt to be transferr'd to the first buyer
At a sad discount: while your over-chilly
Women, on t'other hand, seem somewhat silly.

XVII.

That is, we cannot pardon their bad taste,
For so it seems to lovers swift or slow,
Who fain would have a mutual flame confess'd,
And see a sentimental passion glow,
Even were St. Francis' paramour their guest,
In his monastic concubine of snow:
In short, the maxim for the amorous tribe is
Horatian, *Medio tu tutissimus ibis.*

XVIII.

The "tu" 's *too* much—but let it stand—the verse
Requires it, that's to say, the English rhyme,
And not the pink of old hexameters;
But, after all, there's neither tune nor time
In the last line, which cannot well be worse,
And was thrust in to close the octave's
I own no prosody can ever rate it [chime:
As a rule, but *truth* may, if you translate it.

XIX.

If fair Gulbeyaz overdid her part,
I know not—it succeeded, and success
Is much in most things, not less in the heart,
Than other articles of female dress:
Self-love in man, too, beats all female art;
They lie, we lie, all lie, but love no less;

And no one virtue yet, except starvation,
Could stop that worst of vices—propagation.

XX.

We leave this royal couple to repose:
A bed is not a throne, and they may sleep,
Whate'er their dreams be, if of joys or woes;
Yet disappointed joys are woes as deep
As any man's clay mixture undergoes.
Our least of sorrows are such as we weep:
'Tis the vile daily drop on drop which wears
The soul out (like the stone) with petty cares.

XXI.

A scolding wife, a sullen son, a bill
To pay, unpaid, protested, or discounted
At a percentage; a child cross, dog ill,
A favorite horse fallen lame, just as he's mounted,
A bad old woman making a worse will,
Which leaves you minus of the cash you counted
As certain—these are paltry things, and yet
I've rarely seen the man they did not fret.

XXII.

I'm a philosopher: confound them all! [kind!
Bills, beasts, and men, and—no! *not* woman-
With one good hearty curse I vent my gall,
And then my stoicism leaves nought behind
Which it can either pain or evil call,
And I can give my whole soul up to mind;
Though what *is* soul or mind, their birth or growth, [both!
Is more than I know—the deuce take them

XXIII.

So now all things are d—n'd, one feels at ease,
As after reading Athanasius' curse,
Which doth your true believer so much please:
I doubt if any now could make it worse
O'er his worst enemy when at his knees,
'Tis so sententious, positive, and terse
And decorates the book of Common Prayer,
As doth a rainbow the just clearing air.

XXIV.

Gulbeyaz and her lord were sleeping, or
At least one of them!—Oh, the heavy night,
When wicked wives, who love some bachelor,
Lie down in dudgeon to sigh for the light
Of the grey morning, and look vainly for
Its twinkle through the lattice dusky quite—
To toss, to tumble, doze, revive, and quake
Lest their too lawful bed-fellow should wake!

XXV.

These are beneath the canopy of heaven,
Also beneath the canopy of beds, [given
Four-posted, and silk-curtain'd, which are
For rich men and their brides to lay their heads [" driven
Upon, in sheets white as what bards call
Snow." Well, 'tis all haphazard when one
Gulbeyaz was an empress, but had been [weds.
Perhaps as wretched if a *peasant's quean,*

* See "Waverley."

XXVI.

Don Juan in his feminine disguise,
With all the damsels in their long array,
Had bow'd themselves before th' imperial eyes,
And at the usual signal ta'en their way
Back to their chambers, those long galleries
In the seraglio, where the ladies lay
Their delicate limbs; a thousand bosoms there
Beating for love, as the caged birds for air.

XXVII.

I love the sex, and sometimes would reverse
The tyrant's* wish, "that mankind only had
One neck, which he with one fell stroke might pierce."
My wish is quite as wide, but not so bad,
And much more tender, on the whole, than fierce;
It being (not *now*, but only while a lad)
That womankind had but one rosy mouth,
To kiss them all at once from North to South.

XXVIII.

O enviable Briareus! with thy hands
And heads if thou hadst all things multiplied [stands
In such proportion!—But my Muse withThe giant thought of being a Titan's bride,
Or traveling in Patagonian lands;
So let us back to Liliput, and guide
Our hero through the labyrinth of love,
In which we left him several lines above.

XXIX.

He went forth with the lovely Odalisques,†
At the given signal join'd to their array;
And though he certainly ran many risks,
Yet he could not at times keep, by the way,
(Although the consequences of such frisks
Are worse than the worst damages men pay
In moral England, where the thing's a tax),
From ogling all their charms from breasts to backs.

XXX.

Still he forgot not his disguise:—along
The galleries from room to room they [walk'd,
A virgin-like and edifying throng,
By eunuchs flank'd; while at their head there stalked
A dame who kept up discipline among [talk'd
The female ranks, so that none stirr'd or
Without her sanction, on their she-parades:
Her title was "the Mother of the Maids."

XXXI.

Whether she was a "mother," I know not,
Or whether they were "maids" who call'd
But this is her seraglio-title, got [her mother;
I know not how, but good as any other;
So Cantemir can tell you, or De Tott:
Her office was to keep aloof or smother
All bad propensities in fifteen hundred
Young women, and correct them when the blunder'd.

XXXII.

A goodly sinecure, no doubt! but made
More easy by the absence of all men—
Except his majesty,—who, with her aid,
And guards, and bolts, and walls, and now and then
A slight example, just to cast a shade
Along the rest, contrived to keep this den
Of beauties cool as an Italian convent,
Where all the passions have, alas! but one vent.

XXXIII.

And what is that? Devotion, doubtless—how
Could you ask such a question?—but we will
Continue. As I said, this goodly row
Of ladies of all countries, at the will
Of one good man, with stately march and slow
Like water-lilies floating down a rill—
Or rather lake—for *rills* do *not* run *slowly*—
Paced on most maiden-like and melancholy.

XXXIV.

But when they reach'd their own apartments there [loose
Like birds, or boys, or bedlamites, broke
Waves at spring-tide, or women anywhere,
When freed from bonds (which are of no
After all), or like Irish at a fair, [great use
Their guards being gone, and as it were a truce
Established'd between them and bondage, they
Began to sing, dance, chatter, smile, and play.

XXXV.

Their talk, of course, ran most on the new comer;
Her shape, her hair, her air, her everything
Some thought her dress did not so much become her,
Or wonder'd at her ears without a ring;
Some said her years were getting nigh their summer;
Others contended they were but in spring
Some thought her rather masculine in height,
While others wish'd that she had been so quite.

XXXVI.

But no one doubted, on the whole, that she
Was what her dress bespoke, a damsel fair,
And fresh, and "beautiful exceedingly,"
Who with the brightest Georgians might compare:*
They wonder'd how Gulbeyaz, too, could be
So silly as to buy slaves who might share
(If that his Highness wearied of his bride)
Her throne and power, and everything beside.

XXXVII.

But what was strangest in this virgin crew,
Although her beauty was enough to vex,

* Caligula.—See "Suetonius." "Being in a rage at the people for favoring a party in the Circensian games in opposition to him, he cried out, 'I wish the Roman people had but one neck.'"

† The ladies of the Seraglio.

* "It is in the adjacent climates of Georgia, Mingrelia, and Circassia, that nature has placed, at least to our eyes, the model of beauty, in the shape of the limbs, the color of the skin, the symmetry of the features, and the expression of the countenance; the men are formed for action, the women for love."—GIBBON.

After the first investigating view,
They all found out as few, or fewer specks
In the fair form of their companion new,
Than is the custom of the gentle sex,
When they survey, with Christian eyes of
Heathen, [ing."
In a new face, "the ugliest creature breath-

XXXVIII.

And yet they had their little jealousies,
Like all the rest; but upon this occasion,
Whether there are such things as sympathies
Without our knowledge or our approbation,
Although they could not see through his dis-
All felt a soft kind of concatenation, [guise,
Like magnetism, or devilism, or what
You please—we will not quarrel about that.

XXXIX.

But certain 'tis they all felt for their new
Companion something newer still, as 'twere
A sentimental friendship through and
through,
Extremely pure, which made them all con-
In wishing her their sister, save a few [cur
Who wish'd they had a brother just like her,
Whom, if they were at home in sweet Circas-
They would prefer to Padishah* or Pacha. [sia.

XL.

Of those who had most genius for this sort
Of sentimental friendship there were three,
Lolah, Katinka, and Dudù; in short
(To save description), fair as fair can be
Were they, according to the best report,
Though differing in stature and degree,
And clime and time, and country and complexion;
They all alike admired their new connection.

XLI.

Lolah was dusk as India, and as warm;
Katinka was a Georgian, white and red,
With great blue eyes, a lovely hand and arm,
And feet so small they scarce seem'd made
to tread,
But rather skim the earth; while Dudù's form
Look'd more adapted to be put to bed, [lazy,
Being somewhat large, and languishing, and
Yet of a beauty that would drive you crazy.

XLII.

A kind of sleeping Venus seem'd Dudù,
Yet very fit to "murder sleep" in those [hue,
Who gazed upon her cheek's transcendent
Her Attic forehead, and her Phidian nose;
Few angles were there in her form, 'tis true;
Thinner she might have been, and yet scarce
lose:
Yet, after all, 'twould puzzle to say where
It would not spoil some separate charm to
pare.

XLIII.

She was not violently lively, but [ing;
Stole on your spirit like a May-day break-
Her eyes were not too sparkling, yet, half-shut,
They put beholders in a tender taking;
She look'd (this simile's quite new) just cut
From marble, like a Pygmalion's statue
waking,
The mortal and the marble still at strife,
And timidly expanding into life.

XLIV.

Lolah demanded the new damsel's name—
"Juanna."—Well, a pretty name enough.
Katinka ask'd her also whence she came—
"From Spain."—"But where *is* Spain?"—
"Don't ask such stuff; [shame!"
Nor show your Georgian ignorance—for
Said Lolah, with an accent rather rough,
To poor Katinka. "Spain's an island near
Morocco, betwixt Egypt and Tangier."

XLV.

Dudù said nothing, but sat down beside
Juanna, playing with her veil or hair;
And looking at her steadfastly, she sigh'd,
As if she pitied her for being there;
A pretty stranger without friend or guide,
And all abash'd, too, at the general stare
Which welcomes hapless strangers in all
places,
With kind remarks upon their mien and faces.

XLVI.

But here the Mother of the Maids drew near,
With, "Ladies, it is time to go to rest.
I'm puzzled what to do with you, my dear,"
She added to Juanna, their new guest:
"Your coming has been unexpected here,
And every couch is occupied: you had best
Partake of mine; but by to-morrow early
We will have all things settled for you fairly."

XLVII.

Here Lolah interposed: "Mamma, you know
You don't sleep soundly, and I cannot bear
That anybody should disturb you so:
I'll take Juanna, we're a slenderer pair [no,
Than you would make the half of;—don't say
And I of your young charge will take due
But here Katinka interfered, and said [care."
"She also had compassion and a bed."

XLVIII.

"Besides, I hate to sleep alone," quoth she.
The matron frown'd: "Why so?"—"For
fear of ghosts,"
Replied Katinka; "I am sure I see
A phantom upon each of the four posts:
And then I have the worst dreams that can be,
Of Guebres, Giaours, and Jinns, and Ghouls,
in hosts." [and you,
The dame replied, "Between your dreams
I fear Juanna's dreams would be but few."

XLIX.

"You, Lolah, must continue still to lie
Alone, for reasons which don't matter; you
The same, Katinka, until by and by:
And I shall place Juanna with Dudù,
Who's quiet, inoffensive, silent, shy, [through.
And will not toss and chatter the night

* Padishah is the Turkish title for the Grand Signior.

What say you, child?"—Dudù said nothing, as
Her talents were of the more silent class:

L.

But she rose up, and kiss'd the matron's brow
Between the eyes, and Lolah on both cheeks,
Katinka too; and with a gentle bow [Greeks)
(Curtsies are neither used by Turks nor
She took Juanna by the hand, to show
Their place of rest, and left to both their piques,
The others pouting at the matron's preference
Of Dudù, though they held their tongues, from deference.

LI.

It was a spacious chamber (Oda is [wall
The Turkish title), and ranged round the
Were couches, toilets—and much more than
I might describe, as I have seen it all, [this
But it suffices—little was amiss;
'Twas on the whole a nobly furnish'd hall,
With all things ladies want, save one or two,
And even those were nearer than they knew.

LII.

Dudù, as has been said, was a sweet creature,
Not very dashing, but extremely winning,
With the most regulated charms of feature,
Which painters cannot catch like faces sinning [ture,
Against proportion—the wild strokes of na-
Which they hit off at once in the beginning,
Full of expression, right or wrong, they strike,
And, pleasing or unpleasing, still are like.

LIII.

But she was a soft landscape of mild earth,
Where all was harmony, and calm, and quiet,
Luxuriant, budding; cheerful without mirth,
Which, if not happiness, is much more nigh
Than are your mighty passions and so forth, [it
Which some call "the sublime": I wish they'd try it.
I've seen your stormy seas and stormy women,
And pity lovers rather more than seamen.

LIV.

But she was pensive more than melancholy,
And serious more than pensive, and serene
It may be more than either—not unholy
Her thoughts, at least till now, appear to have been. [wholly
The strangest thing was, beauteous, she was
Unconscious, albeit turn'd of quick seventeen,
That she was fair, or dark, or short, or tall;
She never thought about herself at all.

LV.

And therefore was she kind and gentle as
The Age of Gold (when gold was yet unknown,
By which its nomenclature came to pass;
Thus most appropriately has been shown
"Lucus à *non* lucendo," *not* what *was*, [grown
But what *was not;* a sort of style that's
Extremely common in this age, whose metal
The devil may decompose, but never settle:

LVI.

I think it may be of "Corinthian Brass,"
Which was a mixture of all metals, but
The brazen uppermost). Kind reader, pass
This long parenthesis—I could not shut
It sooner for the soul of me, and class
My faults even with your own; which meaneth, put
A kind construction upon them and me: [free.
But *that* you won't—then don't—I'm not less

LVII.

'Tis time we should return to plain narration,
And thus my narrative proceeds:—Dudù,
With every kindness short of ostentation,
Show'd Juan, or Juanna, through and through
This labyrinth of females, and each station
Described—what's strange—in words extremely few:
I've but one simile, and that's a blunder,
For wordless woman, which is *silent* thunder.

LVIII.

And next she gave her (I say *her*, because
The gender still was epicene, at least
In outward show, which is a saving clause)
An outline of the customs of the East,
With all their chaste integrity of laws,
By which the more a harem is increased,
The stricter doubtless grow the vestal duties
Of supernumerary beauties.

LIX.

And then she gave Juanna a chaste kiss:
Dudù was fond of kissing—which I'm sure
That nobody can ever take amiss,
Because 'tis pleasant, so that it be pure,
And between females means no more than this— [newer.
That they have nothing better near, or
"Kiss" rhymes to "bliss" in fact as well as verse—
I wish it never led to something worse.

LX.

In perfect innocence she then unmade
Her toilet, which cost little, for she was
A child of nature, carelessly array'd: [play'd,
'Twas like the fawn, which, in the lake dis-
Beholds her own shy, shadowy image pass,
When first she starts, and then returns to peep,
Admiring this new native of the deep.

LXI.

And one by one her articles of dress
Were laid aside, but not before she offer'd
Her aid to fair Juanna, whose excess [fer'd;
Of modesty declined the assistance proffer-
Which pass'd well off—as she could do no less;
Though by this politesse she rather suffer'd,
Pricking her fingers with those cursed pins,
Which surely were invented for our sins,—

LXII.

Making a woman like a porcupine, [dread,
Not to be rashly touch'd. But still more
O ye, whose fate it is, as once 'twas mine
In early youth, to turn a lady's maid;—
I did my very boyish best to shine
In tricking her out for a masquerade:
The pins were placed sufficiently, but not
Stuck all exactly in the proper spot.

LXIII.

But these are foolish things to all the wise,
And I love wisdom more than she loves me;
My tendency is to philosophize
On most things, from a tyrant to a tree;
But still the spouseless virgin *Knowledge* flies.
What are we? and whence came we? what shall be
Our *ultimate* existence? what's our present?
Are questions answerless, and yet incessant.

LXIV.

There was deep silence in the chamber: dim
And distant from each other burn'd the lights,
And slumber hover'd o'er each lovely limb
Of the fair occupants; if there be sprites,
They should have walk'd there in their sprightliest trim,
By way of change from their sepulchral sites, [taste,
And shown themselves as ghosts of better
Than haunting some old ruins or wild waste.

LXV.

Many and beautiful lay those around,
Like flowers of different hue, and clime, and
In some exotic garden sometimes found, [root,
With cost and care, and warmth, induced to shoot.
One with her auburn tresses lightly bound,
And fair brows gently drooping as the fruit
Nods from the tree, was slumbering with soft breath, [neath.
And lips apart, which show'd the pearls be-

LXVI.

One with her flush'd cheek laid on her white arm,
And raven ringlets gather'd in dark crowd
Above her brow, lay dreaming soft and warm;
And smiling through her dream, as through a cloud [charm,
The moon breaks, half unveil'd each further
As, slightly stirring in her snowy shroud,
Her beauties seized the unconscious hour of
All bashfully to struggle into light. [night

LXVII.

This is no bull, although it sounds so; for
'Twas night, but there were lamps, as hath been said.
A third's all pallid aspect offer'd more
The traits of sleeping sorrow, and betray'd
Through the heaved breast the dream of some far shore,
Beloved and deplored; while slowly stray'd
(As night-dew, on a cypress glittering, tinges
The black bough) tear-drops through her eyes' dark fringes.

LXVIII.

A fourth, as marble, statue-like and still,
Lay in a breathless, hush'd, and stony sleep;
White, cold, and pure, as looks a frozen rill,
Or the snow minaret on an Alpine steep,
Or Lot's wife done in salt—or what you will;—
My similes are gather'd in a heap,
So pick and choose—perhaps you'll be content
With a carved lady on a monument.

LXIX.

And lo! a fifth appears:—and what is she?
A lady of a "certain age," which means
Certainly aged—what her years might be
I know not, never counting past their teens;
But there she slept, not quite so fair to see
As ere that awful period intervenes
Which lays both men and women on the shelf,
To meditate upon their sins and self.

LXX.

But all this time how slept, or dream'd, Dudù?
With strict inquiry I could ne'er discover,
And scorn to add a syllable untrue;
But ere the middle watch was hardly over,
Just when the fading lamps waned dim and blue, [hover,
And phantoms hover'd, or might seem to
To those who like their company, about
The apartment, on a sudden she scream'd out:

LXXI.

And that so loudly, that up started all
The Oda in a general commotion:
Matrons and maids, and those whom you may call [ocean
Neither, came crowding like the waves of
One on the other, throughout the whole hall,
All trembling, wondering, without the least notion
More than I have myself of what could make
The calm Dudù so turbulently wake.

LXXII.

But wide awake she was; and round her bed,
With floating draperies and with flying hair,
With eager eyes, and light but hurried tread,
And bosoms, arms, and ankles, glancing bare,
And bright as any meteor ever bred [care,
By the North Pole—they sought her cause of
For she seem'd agitated, flush'd, and frighten'd,
Her eye dilated, and her color heighten'd.

LXXIII.

But what is strange—and a strong proof how
A blessing is sound sleep—Juanna lay [great
As fast as ever husband by his mate
In holy matrimony snores away.
Not all the clamor broke her happy state

Of slumber, ere they shook her—so they say
At least—and then she, too, unclosed her eyes,
And yawn'd a good deal with discreet surprise.

LXXIV.

And now commenced a strict investigation,
Which, as all spoke at once, and more than once
Conjecturing, wondering, asking a narration,
Alike might puzzle either wit or dunce
To answer in a very clear oration.
Dudù had never pass'd for wanting sense,
But, being "no orator, as Brutus is,"
Could not at first expound what was amiss.

LXXV.

At length she said that, in a slumber sound,
She dream'd a dream of walking in a wood—
A "wood obscure," * like that where Dante found
Himself in at the age when all grow good;
Life's half-way house, where dames with virtue crown'd,
Run much less risk of lovers turning rude;
And that this wood was full of pleasant fruits,
And trees of goodly growth and spreading roots;

LXXVI.

And in the midst a golden apple grew—
A most prodigious pippin—but it hung
Rather too high and distant; that she threw
Her glances on it, and then, longing, flung
Stones, and whatever she could pick up, to
Bring down the fruit, which still perversely clung
To its own bough and dangled yet in sight,
But always at a most provoking height;

LXXVII.

That on a sudden, when she least had hope,
It fell down of its own accord, before
Her feet; that her first movement was to stoop
And pick it up, and bite it to the core;
That just as her young lip began to ope
Upon the golden fruit the vision bore,
A bee flew out, and stung her to the heart.
And so—she woke with a great scream and start.

LXXVIII.

All this she told with some confusion and
Dismay, the usual consequence of dreams
Of the unpleasant kind, with none at hand
To expound their vain and visionary gleams.
I've known some odd ones which seem'd really plann'd
Prophetically, or that which one deems
A "strange coincidence," to use a phrase
By which such things are settled nowadays.

LXXIX.

The damsels, who had thoughts of some great harm,
Began, as is the consequence of fear,
To scold a little at the false alarm
That broke for nothing on their sleeping ear.

* "Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita
Mi ritrovai per una selva oscura."
"Inferno," Canto I.

The matron, too, was wroth to leave her warm
Bed, for the dream she had been obliged to hear,
And chafed at poor Dudù, who only sigh'd,
And said that she was sorry she had cried.

LXXX.

"I've heard of stories of a cock and bull;
But visions of an apple and a bee,
To take us from our natural rest, and pull
The whole Oda from their beds at half-past three,
Would make us think the moon is at its full.
You surely are unwell, child! we must see,
To-morrow, what his Highness's physician
Will say to this hysteric of a vision.

LXXXI.

"And poor Juanna, too, the child's first night
Within these walls, to be broke in upon
With such a clamor—I had thought it right
That the young stranger should not lie
And, as the quietest of all, she might [alone,
With you, Dudù, a good night's rest have known;
But now I must transfer her to the charge
Of Lolah—though her couch is not so large."

LXXXII.

Lolah's eyes sparkled at the proposition;
But poor Dudù, with large drops in her own,
Resulting from the scolding or the vision,
Implored that present pardon might be shown
For this first fault, and that on no condition
(She added in a soft and piteous tone)
Juanna should be taken from her, and
Her future dreams should all be kept in hand.

LXXXIII.

She promised never more to have a dream,
At least to dream so loudly as just now,
She wonder'd at herself how she could scream—
'Twas foolish, nervous, as she must allow,
A fond hallucination, and a theme
For laughter—but she felt her spirits low,
And begg'd they would excuse her: she'd get over
This weakness in a few hours, and recover.

LXXXIV.

And here Juanna kindly interposed,
And said she felt herself extremely well
Where she then was, as her sound sleep disclosed,
When all around rang like a tocsin bell.
She did not find herself the least disposed
To quit her gentle partner, and to dwell
Apart from one who had no sin to show,
Save that of dreaming once *mal-à-propos*.

LXXXV.

As thus Juanna spoke, Dudù turned round,
And hid her face within Juanna's breast;
Her neck alone was seen, but that was found
The color of a budding rose's crest.

I can't tell why she blush'd, nor can expound
The mystery of this rupture of their rest;
All that I know is, that the facts I state
Are true as truth has ever been of late.

LXXXVI.

And so good-night to them—or, if you will,
Good-morrow—for the cock had crown, and
Began to clothe each Asiatic hill, [light
And the mosque-crescent struggled into
Of the long caravan, which, in the chill [sight
Of dewy dawn, wound slowly down each
height,
That stretches to the stony belt which girds
Asia, where Kaff looks down upon the Kurds.

LXXXVII.

With the first ray, or rather gray, of morn,
Gulbeyaz rose from restlessness: and pale
As passion rises, with its bosom worn,
Array'd herself with mantle, gem, and veil.
The nightingale that sings with the deep thorn
Which fable places in her breast of wail,
Is lighter far of heart and voice than those
Whose headlong passions form their proper
woes.

LXXXVIII.

And that's the moral of this composition,
If people would but see its real drift;
But *that* they will not do without suspicion,
Because all gentle readers have the gift
Of closing 'gainst the light their orbs of vision;
While gentle writers also love to lift [ral,
Their voices 'gainst each other, which is natu-
The numbers are too great for them to flatter
all.

LXXXIX.

Rose the Sultana from a bed of splendor,
Softer than the soft Sybarite's, who cried
Alond because his feelings were too tender
To brook a ruffled rose-leaf by his side,—
So beautiful that art could little mend her,
Though pale with conflicts between love and
So agitated was she with her error, [pride:
She did not even look into the mirror.

XC.

Also rose about the self-same time,
Perhaps a little later, her great lord,
Master of thirty kingdoms, so sublime,
And of a wife by whom he was abhorr'd;
A thing of much less import in that clime—
At least to those of incomes which afford
The filling up their whole connubial cargo—
Than where two wives are under an embargo.

XCI.

He did not think much on the matter, nor
Indeed on any other: as a man,
He liked to have a handsome paramour
At hand, as one may like to have a fan,
And therefore of Circassians had good store,
As an amusement after the Divan;
Though an unusual fit of love or duty [beauty.
Had made him lately bask in his bride's

XCII.

And now he rose; and after due ablutions,
Exacted by the customs of the East,
And prayers and other pious evolutions,
He drank six cups of coffee at the least,
And then withdrew to hear about the Russians,
Whose victories had recently increased
In Catherine's reign, whom glory still adores
As greatest of all sovereigns and w——s.

XCIII.

But oh, thou grand legitimate Alexander,
Her son's son, let not this last phrase offend
Thine ear, if it should reach—and now rhymes
wander
Almost as far as Petersburg, and lend
A dreadful impulse to each loud meander
Of murmuring Liberty's wide waves, which
blend
Their roar even with the Baltic's—so you be
Your father's son, 'tis quite enough for me.

XCIV.

To call men love-begotten, or proclaim
Their mothers as the antipodes of Timon,
That hater of mankind, would be a shame,
A libel, or whate'er you please to rhyme on;
But people's ancestors are history's game:
And if one lady's slip could leave a crime on
All generations, I should like to know
What pedigree the best would have to show?

XCV.

Had Catherine and the Sultan understood
Their own true interest, which kings rarely
Until 'tis taught by lessons rather rude, [know
There was a way to end their strife, al-
though [good,
Perhaps precarious, had they but thought
Without the aid of prince or plenipo:
She to dismiss her guards, and he his harem,
And for their other matters meet and share
'em.

XCVI.

But, as it was, his His Highness had to hold
His daily council upon ways and means,
How to encounter with this martial scold,
This modern Amazon, and queen of queans;
And the perplexity could not be told
Of all the pillars of the state, which leans
Sometimes a little heavy on the backs
Of those who cannot lay on a new tax.

XCVII.

Meantime Gulbeyaz, when her king was gone,
Retired into her boudoir, a sweet place
For love or breakfast; private, pleasing, lone,
And rich with all contrivances which grace
Those gay recesses:—many a precious stone
Sparkled along its roof, and many a vase
Of porcelain held in the fetter'd flowers,
Those captive soothers of a captive's hours.

XCVIII.

Mother-of-pearl, and porphyry, and marble,
Vied with each other in this costly spot;

And singing birds without were heard to warble; [grot
And the stain'd glass which lighted this fair
Varied each ray; but all descriptions garble
The true effect, and so we had better not
Be too minute; an outline is the best—
A lively reader's fancy does the rest.

XCIX.

And here she summon'd Baba, and required
Don Juan at his hands, and information
Of what had pass'd since all the slaves retired,
And whether he had occupied their station;
If matters had been managed as desired,
And his disguise with due consideration
Kept up; and above all, the where and how
He had pass'd the night, was what she wish'd to know.

C.

Baba, with some embarrassment, replied
To this long catechism of questions ask'd
More easily than answer'd—that he had tried
His best to obey in what he had been task'd;
But there seem'd something that he wish'd to hide, [mask'd;
Which hesitation more betray'd than
He scratch'd his ear, the infallible resource
To which embarrass'd people have recourse.

CI.

Gulbeyaz was no model of true patience,
Nor much disposed to wait in word or deed;
She liked quick answers in all conversations;
And when she saw him stumbling like a steed
In his replies, she puzzled him for fresh ones;
And as his speech grew still more broken-kneed,
Her cheek began to flush, her eyes to sparkle,
And her proud brow's blue veins to swell and darkle.

CII.

When Baba saw these symptoms, which he knew
To bode him no great good, he deprecated
Her anger, and beseech'd she'd hear him through—
He could not help the thing which he related:
Then out it came, at length, that to Dudù
Juan was given in charge, as hath been stated;
But not by Baba's fault, he said, and swore on
The holy camel's hump, besides the Koran.

CIII.

The chief dame of the Oda, upon whom
The discipline of the whole harem bore,
As soon as they re-entered their own room,
For Baba's function stopt short at the door,
Had settled all; nor could he then presume
(The aforesaid Baba) just then to do more,
Without exciting such suspicion as
Might make the matter still worse than it was.

CIV.

He hoped, indeed he thought, he could be sure
Juan had not betray'd himself; in fact,
'Twas certain that his conduct had been pure
Because a foolish or imprudent act
Would not alone have made him insecure,
But ended in his being found out and *sack'd*
And thrown into the sea.—Thus Baba spoke
Of all save Dudù's dream, which was no joke.

CV.

This he discreetly kept in the background,
And talk'd away—and might have talk'd till
For any further answer that he found, [now
So deep an anguish wrung Gulbeyaz' brow
Her cheeks turn'd ashes, ears wrung, brain whirl'd round,
As if she had received a sudden blow,
And the heart's dew of pain sprang fast and chilly
O'er her fair front, like Morning's on a lily.

CVI.

Although she was not of the fainting sort,
Baba thought she would faint; but there he err'd—
It is but a convulsion, which, though short,
Can never be describ'd: we all have heard,
And some of us have felt, thus, "*all amort*,"
When things beyond the common have occurr'd—
Gulbeyaz proved, in that brief agony,
What she could ne'er express—then how should I?

CVII.

She stood a moment as a Pythoness
Stands on her tripod, agonized, and full
Of inspiration gather'd from distress, [pull
When all the heart-strings, like wild horses
The heart asunder:—then, as more or less
Their speed abated or their strength grew dull,
She sunk down on her seat by slow degrees,
And bow'd her throbbing head o'er trembling knees.

CVIII.

Her face declined, and was unseen; her hair
Fell in long tresses like the weeping willow
Sweeping the marble underneath her chair,
Or rather sofa (for it was all pillow,
A low, soft ottoman), and black despair
Stirr'd up and down her bosom like a billow
Which rushes to some shore whose shingles check
Its farther course, but must receive its wreck.

CIX.

Her head hung down, and her long hair in stooping
Conceal'd her features better than a veil;
And one hand o'er the ottoman lay drooping:
White, waxen, and as alabaster pale;

Would that I were a painter, to be grouping
All that a poet drags into detail!
Oh that my words were colors; but their tints
May serve perhaps as outlines or slight hints.

CX.

Baba, who knew by experience when to talk
And when to hold his tongue, now held it till
This passion might blow o'er, nor dared to
Gulbeyaz' taciturn or speaking will. [balk
At length she rose up, and began to walk
Slowly along the room, but silent still,
And her brow clear'd, but not her troubled eye;
The wind was down, but still the sea ran high.

CXI.

She stopp'd, and raised her head to speak—but paused,
And then moved on again with rapid pace;
Then slacken'd it, which is the march most caused
By deep emotion:—you may sometimes trace
A feeling in each footstep, as disclosed
By Sallust in his Catiline, who, chased
By all the demons of all passions, show'd
Their work even by the way in which he trode.

CXII.

Gulbeyaz stopp'd, and beckon'd Baba:—"Slave!
Bring the two slaves!" she said in a low tone,
But one which Baba did not like to brave;
And yet he shudder'd, and seem'd rather prone
To prove reluctant, and begg'd leave to crave
(Though he well knew the meaning) to be shown
What slaves her Highness wish'd to indicate,
For fear of any error, like the late.

CXIII.

"The Georgian and her paramour," replied
The imperial bride; and added, "Let the boat
Be ready by the secret portal's side. [throat,
You know the rest." The words stuck in her
Despite her injured love and fiery pride;
And of this Baba willingly took note,
And begg'd, by every hair of Mahomet's beard,
She would revoke the order he had heard.

CXIV.

"To hear is to obey," he said; "but still,
Sultana, think upon the consequence:
It is not that I shall not all fulfil
Your orders, even in their severest sense;
But such precipitation may end ill,
Even at your own imperative expense:
I do not mean destruction and exposure,
In case of any premature disclosure;

CXV.

"But your own feelings. Even should all the rest
Be hidden by the rolling waves which hide
Already many a once love-beaten breast
Deep in the caverns of the deadly tide—
You love this boyish, new, seraglio guest,
And if this violent remedy be tried—
Excuse my freedom, when I here assure you
That killing him is not the way to cure you."

CXVI.

"What dost thou know of love or feeling—Wretch! ["and do
Begone!" she cried with kindling eyes,—
My bidding!" Baba vanish'd, for to stretch
His own remonstrance further, he well knew
Might end in acting as his own "Jack Ketch"; [through
And though he wish'd extremely to get
This awkward business without harm to others,
He still preferr'd his own neck to another's.

CXVII.

Away he went then upon his commission,
Growling and grumbling in good Turkish phrase,
Against all women of whate'er condition,
Especially sultanas and their ways;
Their obstinacy, pride, and indecision, [days,
Their never knowing their own mind two
The trouble that they gave, their immorality,
Which made him daily bless his own neutrality.

CXVIII.

And then he call'd his brethren to his aid,
And sent one on a summons to the pair,
That they must instantly be well array'd,
And above all be comb'd even to a hair,
And brought before the Empress, who had made
Inquiries after them with kindest care;
At which Dudù look'd strange, and Juan silly,
But they must go at once, and will I—nill I.

CXIX.

And here I leave them at their preparation
For the imperial presence, wherein whether
Gulbeyaz show'd them both commiseration
Or got rid of the parties altogether,
Like other angry ladies of her nation,—
Are things the turning of a hair or feather
May settle: but far be't from me to anticipate
In what way feminine caprice may dissipate.

CXX.

I leave them for the present with good wishes,
Though doubts of their well-doing, to arrange
Another part of history; for the dishes
Of this our banquet we must sometimes change,
And trusting Juan may escape the fishes,
Although the situation now seems strange,
And scarce secure, as such digressions *are* fair,
The muse will take a little touch at warfare,

CANTO THE SEVENTH.

1823.

I.

O Love! O Glory! what are ye who fly
Around us ever, rarely to alight?
There's not a meteor in the polar sky [flight.
Of such transcendent and more fleeting
Chill, and chain'd to cold earth, we lift on high
Our eyes in search of either lovely light;
A thousand and a thousand colors they
Assume, then leave us on our freezing way.

II.

And such as they are, such my present tale is,
A nondescript and ever-varying rhyme,
A versified Aurora Borealis,
Which flashes o'er a waste and icy clime.
When we know what all are, we must bewail
But ne'ertheless I hope it is no crime [us,
To laugh at *all* things—for I wish to know
What, after *all*, are *all* things—but a *show?*

III.

They accuse me—*Me*—the present writer of
The present poem—of—I know not what—
A tendency to underrate and scoff
At human power and virtue, and all that:
And this they say in language rather rough.
Good God! I wonder what they would be at!
I say no more than hath been said in Dante's
Verse, and by Solomon and by Cervantes.

IV.

By Swift, by Machiavel, by Rochefoucault,
By Fénélon, by Luther, and by Plato;
By Tillotson, and Wesley, and Rousseau,
Who knew this life was not worth a potato.
'Tis not their fault, nor mine, if this be so—
For my part, I pretend not to be Cato,
Nor even Diogenes—We live and die,
But which is best, you know no more than I.

V.

Socrates said, our only knowledge was
"To know that nothing could be known";
a pleasant
Science enough, which levels to an ass
Each man of wisdom, future, past, or present.
Newton (that proverb of the mind), alas,
Declared, with all his grand discoveries
recent,
That he himself felt only "like a youth
Picking up shells by the great ocean—Truth."

VI.

Ecclesiastes said that "all is vanity"—[show it
Most modern preachers say the same, or
By their examples of true Christianity:
In short, all know, or very soon may know it;
And in this scene of all-confess'd inanity,
By saint, by sage, by preacher, and by poet,
Must I restrain me, through the fear of strife,
From holding up the nothingness of life?

VII.

Dogs, or men!—for I flatter you in saying
That ye are dogs—your betters far—ye may
Read, or read not, what I am now essaying
To show ye what ye are in every way.
As little as the moon stops for the baying
Of wolves, will the bright muse withdraw
one ray [wrath,
From out her skies—then howl your idle
While she still silvers o'er your gloomy path.

VIII.

"Fierce loves and faithless wars"—I am not
sure
If this be the right reading—'tis no matter;
The fact's about the same, I am secure:
I sing them both, and am about to batter
A town which did a famous siege endure,
And was beleaguer'd, both by land and
water,
By Souvaroff, or Anglicè Suwarrow, [row.
Who loved blood as an alderman loves mar-

IX.

The fortress is call'd Ismail, and is placed
Upon the Danube's left branch and left
With buildings in the Oriental taste, [bank,
But still a fortress of the foremost rank,
Or was at least, unless 'tis since defaced,
Which with your conquerors is a common
prank:
It stands some eighty versts from the high sea,
And measures round of toises thousands three.

X.

Within the extent of this fortification
A borough is comprised, along the height
Upon the left, which from its loftier station
Commands the city, and upon its site
A Greek had raised around this elevation
A quantity of palisades *upright*,
So placed as to *impede* the fire of those
Who held the place, and to *assist* the foe's.

XI.

This circumstance may serve to give a notion
Of the high talents of this new Vauban:
But the town ditch below was deep as ocean,
The rampart higher than you'd wish to
hang:
But then there was a great want of precaution
(Prithee, excuse this engineering slang),
Nor work advanced, nor cover'd way, 'twas
there,
To hint at least "Here is no thoroughfare."

XII.

But a stone bastion, with a narrow gorge,
And walls as thick as most skulls born as yet:
Two batteries, cap-à-pie, as our St. George,
Casemated one, and t'other *à barbette*,
Of Danube's bank took formidable charge;

While two-and-twenty cannon, duly set,
Rose o'er the town's right side, in bristling tier,
Forty feet high, upon a cavalier.

XIII.

But from the river the town's open quite,
Because the Turks could never be persuaded
A Russian vessel e'er would heave in sight;
And such their creed was, till they were invaded,
When it grew rather late to set things right.
But as the Danube could not well be waded,
They look'd upon the Muscovite flotilla,
And only shouted "Allah!" and "Bis Millah!"

XIV.

The Russians now were ready to attack;
But, O ye goddesses of war and glory,
How shall I spell the name of each Cossacque,
Who were immortal, could one tell their story?
Alas! what to their memory can lack?
Achilles' self was not more grim and gory
Than thousands of this new and polish'd nation,
Whose names want nothing but—pronunciation.

XV.

Still I'll record a few, if but to increase
Our euphony; there was Strongenoff, and Strokonoff,
Meknop, Serge Lwow, Arseniew of modern Greece,
Chokenoff,
And Tschitsshakoff, and Roguenoff, and
And others of twelve consonants apiece;
And more might be found out, if I could poke enough
Into gazettes; but fame (capricious strumpet),
It seems, has got an ear, as well as trumpet,

XVI.

And cannot tune those discords of narration,
Which may be names at Moscow, into rhyme:
Yet there were several worth commemoration,
As e'er was virgin of a nuptial clime.
Soft words, too, fitted for the peroration
Of Londonderry, drawling against time,
Ending in "ischskin," "ousckin," "iffskchy," "ouski,"
Of whom we can insert but Rousamouski,

XVII.

Scherematoff, and Chrematoff, Koklophti,
Koclobski, Kourakin, and Mouskin Pouskin,
All proper men of weapons, as e'er scoff'd high
Against a foe, or ran a sabre through skin:
Little cared they for Mahomet or Mufti,
Unless to make their kettle-drums a new skin
Out of their hides, if parchment had grown dear,
And no more handy substitute been near.

XVIII.

Then there were foreigners of much renown,
Of various nations, and all volunteers;
Not fighting for their country or its crown,
But wishing to be one day brigadiers;
Also to have the sacking of a town,
A pleasant thing to young men at their years.
'Mongst them were several Englishmen of pith,
Sixteen call'd Thomson, and nineteen named Smith.

XIX.

Jack Thomson and Bill Thomson;—all the rest
Had been call'd "*Jemmy*," after the great bard:
I don't know whether they had arms or crest,
But such a godfather's as good a card.
Three of the Smiths were Peters; but the best
Amongst them all, hard blows to inflict or ward,
Was *he*, since so renown'd "in country quarters,
At Halifax": but now he served the Tartars.

XX.

The rest were Jacks, and Gills, and Wills, and Bills;
But when I've added that the elder Jack
Was born in Cumberland, among the hills,
And that his father was an honest blacksmith,
I've said all *I* know of a name that fills
Three lines of the dispatch in taking "Schmacksmith,"
A village of Moldavia's waste, wherein
He fell, immortal in a bulletin.

XXI.

I wonder (though Mars no doubt's a god I
Praise) if a man's name in a *bulletin*
May make up for a *bullet* in his body?
I hope this little question is no sin,
Because, though I am but a simple noddy,
I think one Shakspeare puts the same thought in
The mouth of some one in his plays so doting,
Which many people pass for wits by quoting.

XXII.

Then there were Frenchmen, gallant, young, and gay;
But I'm too great a patriot to record
Their Gallic names upon a glorious day;
I'd rather tell ten lies than say a word
Of truth:—such truths are treason: they betray
Their country; and as traitors are abhorr'd
Who name the French in English, save to show
How peace should make John Bull the Frenchman's foe.

XXIII.

The Russians, having built two batteries on
An isle near Ismail, had two ends in view:
The first was to bombard it, and knock down
The public buildings, and the private too,
No matter what poor souls might be undone.
The city's shape suggested this, 'tis true:
Form'd like an amphitheatre, each dwelling
Presented a fine mark to throw a shell in.

XXIV.

The second object was to profit by
The moment of the general consternation,

To attack the Turk's flotilla, which lay nigh,
Extremely tranquil, anchor'd at its station:
But a third motive was as probably
To frighten them into capitulation;
A phantasy which sometimes seizes warriors,
Unless they are game as bull-dogs and fox-terriers.

XXV.

A habit rather blameable, which is
That of despising those we combat with,
Common in many cases, was in this [Smith;
The cause of killing Tchitchitzkoff and
One of the valorous "Smiths" whom we shall miss ["pith";
Out of those nineteen who late rhymed to
But 'tis a name so spread o'er "Sir" and "Madam," ["Adam."
That one would think the first who bore it

XXVI.

The Russian batteries were incomplete,
Because they were constructed in a hurry;
Thus the same cause which makes a verse want feet, [Murray,
And throws a cloud o'er Longman and John
When the sale of new books is not so fleet
As they who print them think is necessary,
May likewise put off, for a time, what story
Sometimes calls "murder," and at others "glory."

XXVII.

Whether it was their engineers' stupidity,
Their haste or waste, I neither know nor
Or some contractor's personal cupidity, [care,
Saving his soul by cheating in the ware
Of homicide; but there was no solidity
In the new batteries erected there:
They either miss'd, or they were never miss'd,
And added greatly to the missing list.

XXVIII.

A sad miscalculation about distance
Made all their naval matters incorrect:
Three fireships lost their amiable existence
Before they reach'd a spot to take effect:
The match was lit too soon, and no assistance
Could remedy this lubberly defect:
They blew up in the middle of the river,
While, though 'twas dawn, the Turks slept fast as ever.

XXIX.

At seven they rose, however, and survey'd
The Russ flotilla getting under way;
'Twas nine, when still advancing, undismay'd,
Within a cable's length their vessels lay
Off Ismail, and commenced a cannonade,
Which was return'd, with interest, I may say,
And by a fire of musketry and grape,
And shells and shot of every size and shape.

XXX.

For six hours bore they, without intermission,
The Turkish fire; and, aided by their own
Land batteries, work'd their guns with great precision:

At length they found mere cannonade alone
By no means would produce the town's submission,
And made a signal to retreat at one.
One bark blew up; a second, near the works
Running aground, was taken by the Turks.

XXXI.

The Moslem, too, had lost both ships and men
But when they saw the enemy retire, [again
Their Delhis mann'd some boats, and sail'd
And gall'd the Russians with a heavy fire,
And tried to make a landing on the main;
But here the effect fell short of their desire
Count Damas drove them back into the water
Pell-mell, and with a whole gazette of slaughter.

XXXII.

"If" (says the historian here) "I could report
All that the Russians did upon this day,
I think that several volumes would fall short
And I should still have many things to say."
And so he says no more—but pays his court
To some distinguish'd strangers in that fray; [Damas.
The Prince de Ligne, and Langeron, and
Names great as any that the roll of Fame has.

XXXIII.

This being the case, may show us what fame *is*
For out of these three "*preux chevaliers*,"
Many of common readers give a guess [how
That such existed? (and they may live now
For aught we know.) Renown's all hit or miss
There's fortune even in fame, we must allow
'Tis true, the memoirs of the Prince de Ligne
Have half withdrawn from him oblivion's screen.

XXXIV.

But here are men who fought in gallant ac-
As gallantly as ever heroes fought; [tions,
But buried in the heap of such transactions,
Their names are rarely found, nor often sought. [tions.
Thus even good fame may suffer sad contrac-
And is extinguish'd sooner than she ought
Of all our modern battles, I will bet [*Gazette*.
You can't repeat nine names from each

XXXV.

In short, this last attack, though rich in glory,
Show'd that *somewhere*, *somehow*, there was a fault;
And Admiral Ribas (known in Russian story
Most strongly recommended an assault,
In which he was opposed by young and hoary,
Which made a long debate. But I must halt
For if I wrote down every warrior's speech,
I doubt few readers e'er would mount the breach.

XXXVI.

There was a man, if that he was a man, [tion,
Not that his manhood could be call'd in ques-
For had he not been Hercules, his span
Had been as short in youth as indigestion

Made his last illness, when, all worn and wan,
He died beneath a tree, as much unblest on
The soil of the green province he had wasted,
As e'er was locust on the land it blasted.

XXXVII.

This was Potemkin—a great thing in days
When homicide and harlotry made great;
If stars and titles could entail long praise,
His glory might half equal his estate.
This fellow, being six foot high, could raise
A kind of phantasy proportionate
In the then sovereign of the Russian people,
Who measured men as you would do a steeple.

XXXVIII.

While things were in abeyance, Ribas sent
A courier to the prince, and he succeeded
In ordering matters after his own bent;
I cannot tell the way in which he pleaded,
But shortly he had cause to be content.
In the mean time the batteries proceeded,
And fourscore cannon, on the Danube's border,
Were briskly fired, and answer'd in due order.

XXXIX.

But on the thirteenth, when already part
Of the troops were embark'd, the siege to raise,
A courier on the spur inspired new heart
Into all panters for newspaper praise,
As well as dilettanti in war's art,
By his despatches, couch'd in pithy phrase,
Announcing the appointment of that lover of
Battles to the command, Field-Marshal Souvaroff.

XL.

The letter of the prince to the same marshal
Was worthy of a Spartan, had the cause
Been one to which a good heart could be partial—
Defence of freedom, country, or of laws;
But as it was mere lust of power, to o'erarch all
With his proud brow, it merits slight applause,
Save for its style, which said, all in a trice,
"You will take Ismail, at whatever price."

XLI.

"Let there be light!" said God, "and there was light!"
"Let there be blood!" says man, and there's a sea!
The fiat of this spoil'd child of the Night
(For Day ne'er saw his merits) could decree
More evil in an hour, than thirty bright
Summers could renovate, though they should be
Lovely as those which ripen'd Eden's fruit;
For war cuts up not only branch, but root.

XLII.

Our friends the Turks, who with loud "Allahs" now
Began to signalize the Russ retreat,
Were damnably mistaken; few are slow
In thinking that their enemy is beat,
(Or *beaten*, if you insist on grammar, though
I never think about it in a heat).
But here I say the Turks were much mistaken,
Who, hating hogs, yet wish'd to save their bacon.

XLIII.

For, on the sixteenth, at full gallop, drew
In sight two horsemen, who were deem'd Cossacques,
For some time, till they came in nearer view;
They had but little baggage at their backs,
For there were but three shirts between the two;
But on they rode, upon two Ukraine hacks,
Till, in approaching, were at length descried,
In this plain pair, Suwarrow and his guide.

XLIV.

"Great joy to London now!" says some great fool,
When London had a grand illumination,
Which to that bottle-conjuror, John Bull,
Is of all dreams the first hallucination:
So that the streets of color'd lamps are full,
The sage (*said* John) surrenders at discretion
His purse, his soul, his sense, and even his nonsense,
To gratify, like a huge moth, this *one* sense.

XLV.

'Tis strange that he should further "damn his eyes," [oath
For they are damn'd; that once all-famous
Is to the devil now no further prize,
Since John has lately lost the use of both.
Debt he calls wealth, and taxes Paradise,
And Famine, with her gaunt and bony growth, [line,
Which stares him in the face, he won't exam-
Or swears that Ceres hath begotten Famine.

XLVI.

But to the tale,—great joy unto the camp,
To Russian, Tartar, English, French, Cossacque,
O'er whom Suwarrow shone like a gas lamp
Presaging a most luminous attack;
Or like a wisp along the marsh so damp,
Which leads beholders on a boggy walk,
He flitted to and fro, a dancing light,
Which all who saw it follow'd, wrong or right.

XLVII.

But, certes, matters took a different face;
There was enthusiasm and much applause:
The fleet and camp saluted with great grace,
And all presaged good fortune to their cause.
Within a cannon-shot length of the place [flaws
They drew, constructed ladders, repair'd
In former works, made new, prepared fascines,
And all kinds of benevolent machines.

XLVIII.

'Tis thus the spirit of a single mind
Makes that of multitudes take one direction,
As roll the waters to the breathing wind,

Or roams the herd beneath the bull's pro-
Or as a little dog will lead the blind, [tection;
Or a bell-wether form the flock's connection
By tinkling sounds, when they go forth to victual:
Such is the sway of your great men o'er little.

XLIX.

The whole camp rung with joy: you would have thought
That they were going to a marriage feast
(This metaphor, I think, holds good as aught,
Since there is discord after both, at least):
There was not now a luggage-boy but sought
Danger and spoil with ardor much increased;
And why? because a little—odd—old man,
Stript to his shirt, was come to lead the van.

L.

But so it was; and every preparation
Was made with all alacrity: the first
Detachment of three columns took its station,
And waited but the signal's voice to burst
Upon the foe: the second's ordination
Was also in three columns, with a thirst
For glory, gaping o'er a sea of slaughter:
The third, in columns two, attack'd by water.

LI.

New batteries were erected, and was held
A general council, in which unanimity,
That stranger to most councils, here prevail'd,
As sometimes happens in a great extremity:
And every difficulty being dispell'd,
Glory began to dawn with due sublimity,
While Souvaroff, determined to obtain it,
Was teaching his recruits to use the bayonet.*

LII.

It is an actual fact, that he, commander-
In-chief, in proper person deign'd to drill
The awkward squad, and could afford to squander
His time, a corporal's duty to fulfil;
Just as you'd break a sucking salamander
To swallow flame, and never take it ill:
He show'd them how to mount a ladder (which
Which was not like Jacob's), or to cross a ditch.

LIII.

Also he dress'd up, for the nonce, fascines
Like men (with turbans, scimitars, and dirks,
And made them charge with bayonet these machines,
By way of lesson against actual Turks.
And when well practiced in these mimic scenes,
He judged them proper to assail the works;
At which your wise men sneer'd in phrases witty:
He made no answer; but he took the city.

LIV.

Most things were in this posture on the eve
Of the assault, and all the camp was in
A stern repose, which you would scarce conceive; [thin,
Yet men resolved to dash through thick and
Are very silent when they once believe
That all is settled;—there was little din,
For some were thinking of their home and friends,
And others of themselves and latter ends.

LV.

Suwarrow chiefly was on the alert, [ering;
Surveying, drilling, ordering, jesting, pond-
For the man was, we safely may assert, [ing;
A thing to wonder at beyond most wonder-
Hero, buffoon, half-demon, and half-dirt, [ing;
Praying, instructing, desolating, plunder-
Now Mars, now Momus; and when bent to storm
A fortress, Harlequin in uniform.

LVI.

The day before the assault, while upon drill—
For this great conqueror play'd the corporal— [a hill,
Some Cossacques, hovering like hawks round
Had met a party, towards the twilight's fall,
One of whom spoke their tongue—or well or ill,
'Twas much that he was understood at all;
But whether from his voice, or speech, or manner, [banner.
They found that he had fought beneath their

LVII.

Whereon immediately, at his request,
They brought him and his comrades to headquarters; [guess'd
Their dress was Moslem, but you might have
That these were merely masquerading Tartars,
And that beneath each Turkish-fashion'd vest
Lurk'd Christianity; which sometimes barters [makes
Her inward grace for outward show, and
It difficult to shun some strange mistakes.

LVIII.

Suwarrow, who was standing in his shirt,
Before a company of Calmucks, drilling,
Exclaiming, fooling, swearing at the inert,
And lecturing on the noble art of killing—
For, deeming human clay but common dirt,
This great philosopher was thus instilling
His maxims, which, to martial comprehension,
Proved death in battle equal to a pension;—

LIX.

Suwarrow, when he saw this company
Of Cossacques and their prey, turned round, and cast
Upon them his slow brow and piercing eye:—
"Whence come ye?"—"From Constantinople last,
Captives just now escaped," was the reply.
"What are ye?"—"What you see us."
Briefly pass'd
This dialogue; for he who answer'd knew, [few
To whom he spoke, and made his words but

* Fact: Suwarrow did this in person.

LX.

"Your names?"—"Mine's Johnson, and my comrade's Juan;
The other two are women, and the third
Is neither man nor woman." The chief threw on [heard
The party a slight glance, and said, "I have
Your name before, the second is a new one:
To bring the other three here was absurd:
But let that pass:—I think I have heard your name
In the Nikolaiew regiment?"—"The same."

LXI.

"You served at Widdin?"—"Yes."—"You led the attack?" [know."—
"I did."—"What next?"—"I really hardly
"You were the first i' the breach?"—"I was not slack
At least to follow those who might be so."
"What follow'd?"—"A shot laid me on my back,
And I became a prisoner to the foe." [back,
"You shall have vengeance! for the town surrounded [wounded.
Is twice as strong as that where you were

LXII.

"Where will you serve?"—"Where'er you please."—"I know
You like to be the hope of the forlorn,
And doubtless would be foremost on the foe,
After the hardships you've already borne;
And this young fellow—say, what can he do?
He with the beardless chin and garments torn?"
"Why, general, if he hath no greater fault
In war than love, he had better lead the assault."

LXIII.

"He shall, if that he dare." Here Juan bow'd
Low, as the compliment deserved. Suwar-
Continued: "Your old regiment's allow'd, [row
By special providence, to lead to-morrow,
Or it may be to-night, the assault: I have vow'd [row
To several saints, that shortly plough or har-
Shall pass o'er what was Ismail, and its tusk
Be unimpeded by the proudest mosque.

LXIV.

"So now, my lads, for glory!"—Here he turn'd
And drill'd away in the most classic Russian,
Untill each high, heroic bosom burn'd
For cash and conquest, as if from a cushion
A preacher had held forth (who nobly spurn'd
All earthly goods save tithes), and bade them push on
To slay the Pagans who resisted, battering [ine.
The armies of the Christian Empress Cathar-

LXV.

Johnson, who knew by this long colloquy
Himself a favorite, ventured to address
Suwarrow, though engaged, with accents high,
In his resumed amusement. "I confess
My debt in being thus allow'd to die
Among the foremost; but if you'd express
Explicitly our several posts, my friend
And self would know what duty to attend."

LXVI.

"Right: I was busy, and forgot. Why, you
Will join your former regiment, which should be
Now under arms. No! Katskoff, take him to—
(Here he call'd up a Polish orderly)
His post, I mean the regiment Nikolaiew.
The stranger stripling may remain with me:
He's a fine boy. The women may be sent
To the other baggage, or to the sick tent."

LXVII.

But here a sort of scene began to ensue:
The ladies—who by no means had been
To be disposed of in a way so new, [bred
Although their harem education led
Doubtless to that of doctrines the most true,
Passive obedience—now raised up the head,
With flashing eyes and starting tears, and flung
Their arms, as hens their wings about their young,

LXVIII.

O'er the promoted couple of brave men
Who were thus honor'd by the greatest chief
That ever peopled hell with heroes slain,
Or plunged a province or a realm in grief.
O foolish mortals! always taught in vain!
O glorious laurel! since for one sole leaf
Of thine imaginary deathless tree,
Of blood and tears must flow the unebbing sea.

LXIX.

Suwarrow, who had small regard for tears,
And not much sympathy for blood, survey'd
The women with their hair about their ears,
And natural agonies, with a slight shade
Or feeling; for, however habit sears
Men's hearts against whole millions, when their trade
Is butchery, sometimes a single sorrow [row.
Will touch even heroes—and such was Suwar-

LXX.

He said, and in the kindest Calmuck tone—
"Why, Johnson, what the devil do you mean
By bringing women here? They shall be
All the attention possible, and seen [shown
In safety to the waggons, where alone [been
In fact they can be safe. You should have
Aware this kind of baggage never thrives:
Save wed a year, I hate recruits with wives."

LXXI.

"May it please your excellency," thus replied
Our British friend, "these are the wives of
And not our own. I am too qualified [others,
By service with my military brothers,
To break the rules by bringing one's own bride
Into a camp: I know that nought so bothers
The hearts of the heroic, on a charge,
As leaving a small family at large,

LXXII.

"But these are but two Turkish ladies, who,
With their attendant, aided our escape,
And afterwards accompanied us through
A thousand perils, in this dubious shape.
To me this kind of life is not so new; [scrape:
To them, poor things, it is an awkward
I therefore, if you wish me to fight freely,
Request that they may both be used genteelly."

LXXIII.

Meantime these two poor girls, with swimming eyes,
Look'd on as if in doubt if they could trust
Their own protectors; nor was their surprise
Less than their grief (and truly not less just)
To see an old man, rather wild than wise
In aspect, plainly clad, besmear'd with dust,
Stript to his waistcoat, and that not too clean,
More fear'd than all the sultans ever seen.

LXXIV.

For everything seem'd resting on his nod,
As they could read in all eyes. Now to them,
Who were accustom'd, as a sort of god,
To see the Sultan, rich in many a gem,
Like an imperial peacock stalk abroad
(That royal bird, whose tail's a diadem)
With all the pomp of power, it was a doubt
How power could condescend to do without.

LXXV.

John Johnson, seeing their extreme dismay,
Though little versed in feelings oriental,
Suggested some slight comfort in his way.
Don Juan, who was much more sentimental,
Swore they should see him by the dawn of day,
Or that the Russian army should repent all:
And, strange to say, they found some consola- [tion
In this—for females like exaggeration.

LXXVI.

And then with tears, and sighs, and some slight kisses,
They parted for the present—these to await,
According to the artillery's hits or misses,
What sages call Chance, Providence, or Fate
(Uncertainty is one of many blisses,
A mortgage on Humanity's estate),
While their beloved friends began to arm,
To burn a town which never did them harm.

LXXVII.

Suwarrow—who but saw things in the gross,
Being much too gross to see them in detail;
Who calculated life as so much dross,
And as the wind a widow'd nation's wail,
And cared as little for his army's loss [vail)
(So that their efforts should at length pre-
As wife and friends did for the boils of Job—
What was't to him to hear two women sob?

LXXVIII.

Nothing.—The work of glory still went on
In preparations for a cannonade
As terrible as that of Ilion,
If Homer had found mortars ready made;
But now, instead of slaying Priam's son,
We only can but talk of escalade,
Bombs, drums, guns, bastions, batteries, bayonets, bullets; [gullets.
Hard words, which stick in the soft Muses'

LXXIX.

O thou eternal Homer! who couldst charm
All ears, though long; all ages, though so
By merely wielding, with poetic arm, [short,
Arms to which men will never more resort,
Unless gunpowder should be found to harm
Much less than is the hope of every court,
Which now is leagued young freedom to annoy;
But they will not find Liberty a Troy;—

LXXX.

O thou eternal Homer! I have now [slain,
To paint a siege wherein more men were
With deadlier engines and a speedier blow,
Than in thy Greek gazette of that campaign;
And yet, like all men else, I must allow,
To vie with thee would be about as vain
As for a brook to cope with ocean's flood—
But still we moderns equal you in blood;

LXXXI.

If not in poetry, at least in fact;
And fact is truth, the grand desideratum!
Of which, howe'er the Muse describes each act,
There should be ne'ertheless a slight substratum.
But now the town is going to be attack'd; ['em?
Great deeds are doing—how shall I relate
Souls of immortal generals! Phœbus watches
To color up his rays from your despatches.

LXXXII.

O ye great bulletins of Buonaparte!
O ye less grand long lists of kill'd and wounded!
Shade of Leonidas! who fought so hearty,
When my poor Greece was once, as now, surrounded!
O Cæsar's Commentaries! now impart, ye
Shadows of glory! (lest I be confounded),
A portion of your fading twilight hues,
So beautiful, so fleeting, to the Muse.

LXXXIII.

When I call "fading" martial immortality,
I mean that every age and every year,
And almost every day, in sad reality,
Some sucking hero is compell'd to rear,
Who, when we come to sum up the totality
Of deeds to human happiness most dear,
Turns out to be a butcher in great business,
Afflicting young folks with a sort of dizziness.

LXXXIV.

Medals, rank, ribands, lace, embroidery, scar-
Are things immortal to immortal man, [let,
As purple to the Babylonian harlot;

An uniform to boys is like a fan
To women; there is scarce a crimson varlet
But deems himself the first in Glory's van.
But Glory's glory; and if you would find
What that is—ask the pig who sees the wind!

LXXXV.

At least *he feels* it, and some say he *sees*,
Because he runs before it like a pig;
Or, if that simple sentence should displease,
Say that he scuds before it, like a brig,
A schooner, or—but it is time to cease
This canto, ere my Muse perceives fatigue:
The next shall ring a peal to shake all people,
Like a bob-major from a village steeple.

LXXXVI.

Hark! through the silence of the cold, dull night,
The hum of armies gathering rank on rank!
Lo! dusky masses steal in dubious sight
Along the leaguer'd wall and bristling bank
Of the arm'd river, while with straggling light
The stars peep through the vapors dim and dank,
Which curl in curious wreaths:—how soon the smoke
Of hell shall pall them in a deeper cloak!

LXXXVII.

Here pause we for the present—as even then
That awful pause, dividing life from death,
Struck for an instant on the hearts of men,
Thousands of whom were drawing their last breath!
A moment—and all will be life again!
The march! the charge! the shouts of either faith!
Hurrah! and Allah! and—one moment more—
The death-cry drowning in the battle's roar.

CANTO THE EIGHTH.

1823.

I.

Oh, blood and thunder! and oh, blood and wounds!
These are but vulgar oaths, as you may deem,
Too gentle reader! and most shocking sounds.
And so they are: yet thus is Glory's dream
Unriddled, and as my true Muse expounds
At present such things, since they are her theme,
So be they her inspirers! Call them Mars,
Bellona, what you will—they mean but wars.

II.

All was prepared—the fire, the sword, the men
To wield them in their terrible array:
The army, like a lion from his den,
March'd forth with nerves and sinews bent
A human Hydra, issuing from its fen to slay,—
To breathe destruction on its winding way,
Whose heads were heroes, which, cut off in vain,
Immediately in others grew again.

III.

History can only take things in the gross;
But could we know them in detail, perchance,
In balancing the profit and the loss,
War's merit it by no means might enhance,
To waste so much gold for a little dross,
As hath been done, mere conquest to advance.
The drying up a single tear has more
Of honest fame, than shedding seas of gore.

IV.

And why?—because it brings self-approbation;
Whereas the other, after all its glare,
Shouts, bridges, arches, pensions from a nation,
Which (it may be) has not much left to spare,
A higher title, or a loftier station,
Though they may make Corruption gape or stare,
Yet in the end, except in Freedom's battles,
Are nothing but a child of Murder's rattles.

V.

And such they are—and such they will be
Not so Leonidas and Washington,
Whose every battle-field is holy ground,
Which breathes of nations saved, not worlds undone.
How sweetly on the ear such echoes sound!
While the mere victor's may appal or stun
The servile and the vain, such names will be
A watchword till the future shall be free.

VI.

The night was dark, and the thick mist allow'd
Nought to be seen save the artillery's flame,
Which arch'd the horizon like a fiery cloud,
And in the Danube's waters shone the same—
A mirror'd hell! The volleying roar, and loud,
Long booming of each peal on peal o'ercame
The ear far more than thunder; for Heaven's flashes
Spare, or smite rarely—man's make millions ashes!

VII.

The column order'd on the assault scarce pass'd
Beyond the Russian batteries a few toises,
When up the bristling Moslem rose at last,
Answering the Christian thunders with like voices:
Then one vast fire, air, earth, and stream embraced,
Which rock'd as 'twere beneath the mighty noises;
While the whole rampart blazed like Etna, when
The restless Titan hiccups in his den.

VIII.

And one enormous shout of "Allah" rose
In the same moment, loud as even the roar
Of war's most mortal engines, to their foes
Hurling defiance: city, stream, and shore
Resounded "Allah!" and the clouds which close

With thickening canopy the conflict o'er,
Vibrate to the Eternal Name. Hark! through
All sounds it pierceth, "Allah! Allah! Hu!"*

IX.

The columns were in movement one and all.
But of the portion which attack'd by water,
Thicker than leaves the lives began to fall,
Though led by Arseniew, that great son of slaughter,
As brave as ever faced both bomb and ball.
"Carnage" (so Wordsworth tells you) "is God's daughter":†
If *he* speaks truth, she is Christ's sister, and
Just now behaved as in the Holy Land.

X.

The Prince de Ligne was wounded in the knee;
Count Chapeau-Bras, too, had a ball between
His cap and head, which proves the head to be
Aristocratic as was ever seen,
Because it then received no injury
More than the cap: in fact, the ball could
No harm unto a right legitimate head: [mean
"Ashes to ashes"—why not lead to lead?

XI.

Also the General Markow, Brigadier,
Insisting on removal of *the prince*, [near—
Amidst some groaning thousands dying
All common fellows, who might writhe and
And shriek for water into a deaf ear—[wince,
The General Markow, who could thus evince
His sympathy for rank, by the same token,
To teach him greater, had his own leg broken.

XII.

Three hundred cannon threw up their emetic,
And thirty thousand muskets flung their
Like hail, to make a bloody diuretic. [pills,
Mortality! thou hast thy monthly bills: [tick,
Thy plagues, thy famines, thy physicians, yet
Like the death-watch, within our ears the ills
Past, present, and to come;—but all may yield
To the true portrait of one battle-field.

XIII.

There the still varying pangs, which multiply
Until their very number makes men hard
By the infinities of agony, [gard—
Which meet the gaze, whate'er it may re-
The groan, the roll in dust, the all-white eye
Turn'd back within its socket—these reward
Your rank and file by thousands, while the rest
May win perhaps a riband at the breast.

XIV.

Yet I love glory:—glory's a great thing:
Think what it is to be, in your old age,
Maintain'd at the expense of your good king;
A moderate pension shakes full many a sage,
And heroes are but made for bards to sing,
Which is still better: thus in verse to wage
Your wars eternally, besides enjoying
Half-pay for life, make mankind worth destroying.

XV.

The troops, already disembark'd, push'd on
To take a battery on the right; the others,
Who landed lower down, their landing done,
Had set to work as briskly as their brothers:
Being grenadiers, they mounted, one by one,
Cheerful as children climb the breasts of mothers,
O'er the entrenchment and the palisade,
Quite orderly, as if upon parade.

XVI.

And this was admirable; for so hot
The fire was, that were red Vesuvius loaded,
Besides its lava, with all sorts of shot,
And shells, or hells, it could not more have
Of officers a third fell on the spot, [goaded.
A thing which victory by no means boded
To gentlemen engaged in the assault: [fault.
Hounds, when the huntsman tumbles, are at

XVII.

But here I leave the general concern,
To track our hero on his path of fame:
He must his laurels separately earn;
For fifty thousand heroes, name by name,
Though all deserving equally to turn
A couplet, or an elegy to claim,
Would form a lengthy lexicon of glory,
And, what is worse still, a much longer story:

XVIII.

And therefore we must give the greater number
To the Gazette, which doubtless fairly dealt
By the deceased, who lie in famous slumber
In ditches, fields, or wheresoe'er they felt
Their clay for the last time their souls encumber;— [spelt
Thrice happy he whose name has been well
In the despatch: I knew a man whose loss
Was printed *Grove*, although his name was Grose.*

XIX.

Juan and Johnson join'd a certain corps,
And fought away with might and main, not knowing
The way which they had never trod before,

* Allah Hu! is properly the war-cry of the Mussulmans: and they dwell long on the last syllable, which gives it a very wild and peculiar effect.

† To wit, the Deity's: this is perhaps as pretty a pedigree for murder as ever was found out by Garter King at Arms. What would have been said had any free-spoken people discovered such a lineage!

"But Thy most dreadful instrument,
In working out a pure intent,
Is man array'd for mutual slaughter:
Yea, Carnage is Thy daughter!"
WORDSWORTH'S "Thanksgiving Ode."

* A Fact: see the Waterloo Gazettes. I recollect remarking at the time to a friend, "There is fame! a man is killed: his name is Grose, and they print it Grove." I was at college with the deceased, who was a very amiable and clever man, and his society in great request for his wit, gaiety, and chansons a boire.

And still less guessing where they might be going; [o'er,
But on they march'd, dead bodies trampling
Firing, and thrusting, slashing, sweating, glowing,
But fighting thoughtlessly enough to win,
To their *two* selves *one* whole bright bulletin.

XX.

Thus on they wallow'd in the bloody mire
Of dead and dying thousands—sometimes gaining [nigher
A yard or two of ground, which brought them
To some odd angle for which all were strain-
At other times, repulsed by the close fire, [ing:
Which really pour'd as if all hell were raining [o'er
Instead of heaven, they stumbled backwards
A wounded comrade, sprawling in his gore.

XXI.

Though 'twas Don Juan's first of fields, and though
The nightly muster and the silent march
In the chill dark, when courage does not glow
So much as under a triumphal arch, [throw
Perhaps might make him shiver, yawn, or
A glance on the dull clouds (as thick as starch, [day;—
Which stiffen'd heaven), as if he wish'd for
Yet for all this he did not run away.

XXII.

Indeed he could not. But what if he had?
There *have been* and *are* heroes who begun
With something not much better, or as bad:
Frederick the Great from Molwitz deign'd to
For the first and last time; for, like a pad, [run
Or hawk, or bride, most mortals, after one
Warm bout, are broken into their new tricks,
And fight like fiends for pay or politics.

XXIII.

He was what Erin calls, in her sublime
Old Erse or Irish, or it may be *Punic;*—
(The antiquarians who can settle time,
Which settles all things, Roman, Greek, or Runic, [same clime *
Swear that Pat's language sprung from the
With Hannibal, and wears the Tyrian tunic
Of Dido's alphabet; and this is rational
As any other notion, and not national);—

XXIV.

But Juan was quite "a broth of a boy,"
A thing of impulse, and a child of song;
Now swimming in the sentiment of joy,
Or the *sensation*(if that phrase seem wrong),
And afterwards, if he must needs destroy,
In such company as always throng
To battles, sieges, and that kind of pleasure,
No less delighted to employ his leisure,

XXV.

But always without malice: if he warr'd
Or loved, it was with what we call "the best Intentions," which form all mankind's *trump card,*
To be produced when brought up to the test.
The statesman, hero, harlot, lawyer,—ward
Off each attack, when people are in quest
Of their designs, by saying they *meant well;*
'Tis pity "that such meanings should pave hell." *

XXVI.

I almost lately have begun to doubt [*paved*—
Whether hell's pavement—if it be so
Must not have latterly been quite worn out,
Not by the numbers good intent hath saved,
But by the mass who go below without
Those ancient good intentions which once shaved [hell,
And smooth'd the brimstone of that street of
Which bears the greatest likeness to Pall Mall.

XXVII.

Juan, by some strange chance which oft divides
Warrior from warrior in their grim career,
Like chastest wives from constant husbands' sides,
Just at the close of the first bridal year,
By one of those odd turns of Fortune's tides,
Was on a sudden rather puzzled here,
When, after a good deal of heavy firing,
He found himself alone, and friends retiring.

XXVIII.

I don't know how the thing occurr'd—it might
Be that the greater part were killed or wounded,
And that the rest had faced unto the right
About; a circumstance which has con- Cæsar himself, who, in the very sight[founded
Of his whole army, which so much abounded
In courage, was obliged to snatch a shield,
And rally back his Romans to the field.

XXIX.

Juan, who had no shield to snatch, and was
No Cæsar, but a fine young lad, who fought,
He knew not why, arr ving at this pass,
Stopp'd for a minute, as perhaps he ought
For a much longer time: then, like an ass,
(Start not, kind readers: since great Homer
This simile enough for Ajax, Juan [thought
Perhaps may find it better than a new one),—

XXX.

Then, like an ass, he went upon his way,
And what was stranger, never look'd behind;
But seeing, flashing forward, like the day
Over the hills, fire enough to blind
Those who dislike to look upon a fray,
He stumbled on to see if he could find
A path, to add to his own slight arm and forces
To corps, the greater part of which were corses.

XXXI.

Perceiving then no more the commandant
Of his own corps, nor even the corps which had

* See Major Valiancy and Sir Lawrence Parsons.

*The Portuguese proverb says that "hell is paved with good intentions."

Quite disappear'd—the gods know how! (I can't
Account for everything which may look bad
In history; but we at least may grant
It is not marvelous that a mere lad,
In search for glory, should look on before,
Nor care a pinch of snuff about his corps;)—

XXXII.

Perceiving no commander nor commanded,
And left at large, like a young heir, to make
His way to—where he knew not—single-handed;
As travelers follow over bog and brake
An *ignis fatuus;* or as sailors stranded
Unto the nearest hut themselves betake;
So Juan, following honor and his nose, [foes.
Rush'd where the thickest fire announced most

XXXIII.

He knew not where he was, nor greatly cared,
For he was dizzy, busy, and his veins
Fill'd as with lightning—for his spirit shared
The hour, as is the case with lively brains;
And where the hottest fire was seen and heard, [strains,
And the loud cannon peal'd his hoarsest
He rush'd, while earth and air were sadly shaken,
By thy humane discovery, Friar Bacon! *

XXXIV.

And as he rush'd along, it came to pass he
Fell in with what was the late second column,
Under the orders of the General Lascy,
But now reduced, as is a bulky volume
Into an elegant extract (much less massy)
Of heroism, and took his place with solemn
Air 'midst the rest, who kept their valiant faces,
And levell'd weapons still against the glacis.

XXXV.

Just at this crisis up came Johnson too,
Who had "retreated," as the phrase is, when
Men run away much rather than go through
Destruction's jaws into the devil's den.
But Johnson was a clever fellow, who
Knew when and how "to cut and come again,"
And never ran away, except when running
Was nothing but a valorous kind of cunning.

XXXVI.

And so, when all his corps were dead or dying,
Except Don Juan, a mere novice, whose
More virgin valor never dreamt of flying,
From ignorance of danger, which indues
Its votaries, like Innocence relying [thews—
On its own strength, with careless nerves and
Johnson retired a little, just to rally [valley."
Those who catch cold in "shadows of Death's

XXXVII.

And there, a little shelter'd from the shot,
Which rain'd from bastion, battery, parapet,
Rampart, wall, casemate, house—for there was
In this extensive city, sore beset [not
By Christian soldiery, a single spot
Which did not combat like the devil, as yet—
He found a number of Chasseurs, all scatter'd
By the resistance of the chase they batter'd.

XXXVIII.

And these he call'd on; and, what's strange, they came
Unto his call, unlike "the spirits from
The vasty deep," to whom you may exclaim,
Says Hotspur, long ere they will leave their home.
Their reasons were uncertainty, or shame
t shrinking fro m a bullet or a bomb,
And that odd impulse which, in wars or creeds,
Makes men, like cattle, follow him who leads.

XXXIX.

By Jove, he was a noble fellow, Johnson;
And though his name, than Ajax or Achilles
Sounds less harmonious, underneath the sun
soon [his
We shall not see his likeness: he could kill
Man quite as quietly as blows the monsoon
Her steady breath (which some months the same *still* is).
Seldom he varied feature, hue, or muscle,
And could be very busy without bustle.

XL.

And therefore, when he ran away, he did so
Upon reflection, knowing that behind
He would find others who would fain be rid so
Of idle apprehensions, which like wind
Trouble heroic stomachs. Though their lids so
Oft are soon closed, all heroes are not blind;
But when they light upon immediate death,
Retire a little, merely to take breath.

XLI.

But Johnson only ran off, to return
With many other warriors, as we said,
Unto that rather somewhat misty bourne,
Which Hamlet tells us is a pass of dread.
To Jack, howe'er, this gave but slight concern:
His soul (like galvanism upon the dead)
Acted upon the living, as on wire,
And led them back into the heaviest fire.

XLII.

Egad! they found, the second time, what they
The first time thought quite terrible enough
To fly from, malgré all which people say
Of glory, and all that immortal stuff
Which fills a regiment (besides their pay,
That daily shilling which makes warriors tough)— [come,
They found, on their return, the self-same wel-
Which made some *think*, and others *know*, a *hell* come.

XLIII.

They fell as thick as harvests beneath hail,
Grass before scythes, or corn below the sickle;

* Gunpowder is said to have been discovered by this friar.

Proving that trite old truth, that life's as frail
As any other boon for which men stickle.
The Turkish batteries thrash'd them like a
Or a good boxer; into a sad pickle [flail,
Putting the very bravest, who were knock'd
Upon the head before their guns were cock'd.

XLIV.

The Turks, behind the traverses and flanks
Of the next bastion, fired away like devils,
And swept, as gales sweep foam away, whole
ranks: [levels
However, Heaven knows how, the Fate who
Towns, nations, worlds, in her revolving
pranks,
So order'd it, amidst these sulphury revels,
That Johnson and some few who had not
scamper'd
Reach'd the interior talus * of the rampart.

XLV.

First one or two, then five, six, and a dozen,
Came mounting quickly up, for it was now
All neck or nothing, as, like pitch or rosin,
Flame was shower'd forth above as well's
below, [chosen,
So that you scarce could say who best had
The gentlemen that were the first to show
Their martial faces on the parapet,
Or those who thought it brave to wait as yet.

XLVI.

But those who scaled, found out that their
advance
Was favor'd by an accident or blunder;
The Greek or Turkish Cohorn's ignorance
Had palisado'd in a way you'd wonder
To see in forts of Netherlands or France
(Though these to our Gibraltar must knock
under):
Right in the middle of the parapet
Just named, these palisades were primly set;

XLVII.

So that on either side some nine or ten
Paces were left, whereon you could contrive
To march; a great convenience to our men,
At least to all those who were left alive,
Who thus could form a line, and fight again.
And that which further aided them to strive
Was that they could kick down the palisades,
Which scarcely rose much higher than grass
blades.

XLVIII.

Among the first—I will not say the *first*,
For such precedence, upon such occasions,
Will oftentimes make deadly quarrels burst
Out between friends as well as allied nations.
The Briton must be bold who really durst
Put to such trial John Bull's partial pa-
As say that Wellington, at Waterloo, [tience,
Was beaten—though the Prussians say so too—

XLIX.

And that if Blucher, Bulow, Gneisenau, ["ow,"
And God knows who besides in "au" and
Had not come up in time to cast an awe
Into the hearts of those who fought till now,
As tigers combat with an empty craw,
The Duke of Wellington had ceased to show
His orders, also to receive his pensions, [tions.
Which are the heaviest that our history men-

L.

But never mind—"God save the king!" and
kings!
For if *He* don't, I doubt if *men* will longer—
I think I hear a little bird, who sings
The people by and by will be the stronger:
The veriest jade will wince whose harness
wrings
So much into the raw as quite to wrong her
Beyond the rules of posting—and the mob
At last fall sick of imitating Job.

LI.

At first it grumbles, then it swears, and then,
Like David, flings smooth pebbles 'gainst a
At last it takes to weapons such as men [giant;
Snatch when despair makes human hearts
less pliant.
Then comes "the tug of war";—'twill come
again, ["on't,"
I rather doubt; and I would fain say "Fie
If I had not perceived that revolution
Alone can save the earth from hell's pollution.

LII.

But to continue:—I say not *the* first,
But *of* the first, our little friend, Don Juan,
Walk'd o'er the walls of Ismail, as if nursed
Amid such scenes—though this was quite a
new one
To him, and I should hope to *most*. The thirst
Of glory, which so pierces through and
through one, [ture,
Pervaded him,—although a generous crea-
As warm in heart as feminine in feature.

LIII.

And here he was—who, upon a woman's
breast,
Even from a child, felt like a child; howe'er
The man in all the rest might be confest,
To him it was Elysium to be there,
And he could even withstand that awkward
test, [fair,
Which Rousseau points out to the dubious
"Observe your lover when he *leaves* your
arms"; [charms,
But Juan never left them, while they had

LIV.

Unless compell'd by fate, or wave, or wind,
Or near relations, who are much the same.
But *here* he was!—where each tie that can bind
Humanity must yield to steel and flame;
And he whose very body was all mind [tame
Flung here by fate or circumstance, which
The loftiest, hurried by the time and place,
Dash'd on like a spurr'd blood-horse in a race.

* The slope or inclination of a wall in fortification.

LV.

So was his blood stirr'd while he found resist-
As is the hunter's at the five-bar gate, [ance,
Or double post and rail, where the existence
Of Britain's youth depends upon their
weight,
The lightest being the safest; at a distance
He hated cruelty, as all men hate
Blood until heated—and even then his own
At times would curdle o'er some heavy groan.

LVI.

The General Lascy, who had been hard prest,
Seeing arrive an aid so opportune
As were some hundred youngsters all abreast,
Who came as if just dropp'd down from the
moon,
To Juan, who was nearest him, address'd
His thanks, and hopes to take the city soon,
Not reckoning him to be a "base Bezonian"
(As Pistol calls it), but a young Livonian.

LVII.

Juan, to whom he spoke in German, knew
As much of German as of Sanskrit, and
In answer made an inclination to
The General who held him in command;
For seeing one with ribands, black and blue,
Stars, medals, and a bloody sword in hand,
Addressing him in tones which seem'd to
He recognized an officer of rank. [thank,

LVIII.

Short speeches pass between two men who
speak
No common language; and besides, in time
Of war and taking towns, when many a shriek
Rings o'er the dialogue, and many a crime
Is perpetrated ere a word can break
Upon the ear, and sounds of horror chime
In like church bells, with sigh, howl, groan,
yell, prayer,
There cannot be much conversation there.

LIX.

And therefore all we have related in
Two long octaves, pass'd in a little minute;
But in the same small minute every sin
Contrived to get itself comprised within it:
The very cannon, deafen'd by the din, [net,
Grew dumb, for you might almost hear a lin-
As soon as thunder, 'midst the general noise
Of human nature's agonizing voice!

LX.

The town was enter'd. O Eternity!—
"God made the country, and man made the
So Cowper says—and I begin to be [town,"
Of his opinion, when I see cast down
Rome, Babylon, Tyre, Carthage, Nineveh,
All walls men know, and many never known;
And, pondering on the present and the past,
To deem the woods shall be our home at last:—

LXI.

Of all men, saving Sylla the manslayer,
Who passes for in life and death most lucky;
Of the great names which in our faces stare,
The General Boone, backwoodsman of Ken-
tucky,
Was happiest amongst mortals anywhere:
For killing nothing but a bear or buck, he
Enjoy'd the lonely, vigorous, harmless days
Of his old age in wilds of deepest maze.

LXII.

Crime came not near him—she is not the child
Of solitude; Health shrank not from him—
Her home is in the rarely-trodden wild, [for
Where if men seek her not, and death be
more [guiled
Their choice than life, forgive them, as be-
By habit to what their own hearts abhor—
In cities caged. The present case in point I
Cite is, that Boone lived hunting up to ninety;

LXIII.

And, what's still stranger, left behind a name
For which men vainly decimate the throng,
Not only famous, but of that *good* fame
Without which glory's but a tavern song—
Simple, serene, the antipodes of shame,
Which hate nor envy e'er could tinge with
wrong:
An active hermit, even in age the child
Of nature, or the Man of Ross run wild.

LXIV.

'Tis true he shrank from men, even of his
nation:
When they built up unto his darling trees,—
He moved some hundred miles off, for a sta-
tion [ease.
Where there were fewer houses and more
The inconvenience of civilization [please;
Is, that you neither can be pleased nor
But where he met the individual man,
He show'd himself as kind as mortal can.

LXV.

He was not all alone; around him grew
A sylvan tribe of children of the chase,
Whose young, unwaken'd world was ever new:
Nor sword nor sorrow yet had left a trace
On her unwrinkled brow, nor could you view
A frown on nature's or on human face;—
The free-born forest found and kept them free,
And fresh as is a torrent or a tree.

LXVI.

And tall, and strong, and swift of foot were
they,
Beyond the dwarfing city's pale abortions,
Because their thoughts had never been the
prey [portions.
Of care or gain: the green woods were their
No sinking spirits told them they grew gray;
No fashion made them apes of her distor-
tions:
Simple they were, not savage; and their rifles,
Though very true, were not yet used for trifles.

LXVII.

Motion was in their days, rest in their slum-
bers,

And cheerfulness the handmaid of their toil;
Nor yet too many nor too few their numbers;
Corruption could not make their hearts her soil;
The lust which stings, the splendor which encumbers,
With the free foresters divide no spoil:
Serene, not sullen, were the solitudes
Of this unsighing people of the woods.

LXVIII.

So much for nature:—by way of variety,
Now back to thy great joys, Civilization!
And the sweet consequence of large society,
War, pestilence, the despot's desolation,
The kingly scourge, the lust of notoriety,
The millions slain by soldiers for their ration,
The scenes like Catharine's boudoir at three-score,
With Ismail's storm, to soften it the more.

LXIX.

The town was enter'd: first one column made
Its sanguinary way good—then another;
The reeking bayonet and the flashing blade
Clash'd 'gainst the scimitar, and babe and mother upbraid:—
With distant shrieks were heard Heaven to
Still closer sulphury clouds began to smother
The breath of morn and man, where, foot by foot,
The madden'd Turks their city still disputc.

LXX.

Koutousow, he who afterwards beat back
(With some assistance from the frost and snow)
Napoleon on his bold and bloody track,
Napoleon on his bold and bloody track,
It happen'd was himself beat back just now.
He was a jolly fellow, and could crack
His jest alike in face of friend or foe,
Though life, and death, and victory were at stake.
But here it seem'd his jokes had ceased to take;

LXXI.

For, having thrown himself into a ditch,
Follow'd in haste by various grenadiers,
Whose blood the puddle greatly did enrich,
He climb'd to where the parapet appears;
But there his project reached its utmost pitch
('Mongst other deaths, the General Ribaupierre's
Was much regretted), for the Moslem men
Threw them all down into the ditch again,

LXXII.

And had it not been for some stray troops landing,
They knew not where—being carried by the stream
To some spot where they lost their understanding,
And wander'd up and down as in a dream,
Until they reach'd, as daybreak was expanding,
That which a portal to their eyes did seem—
The great and gay Koutousow might have lain
Where three parts of his column yet remain.

LXXIII.

And scrambling round the rampart, these same troops,
After the taking of the "cavalier,"
Just as Koutousow's most "forlorn" of "hopes"
Took, like chameleons, some slight tinge of fear,
Open'd the gate called "Kilia" to the groups
Of baffled heroes, who stood shyly near,
Sliding knee-deep in lately-frozen mud,
Now thaw'd into a marsh of human blood.

LXXIV.

The Kozacks, or, if so you please, Cossacques—
(I don't much pique myself upon orthography,
So that I do not grossly err in facts,
Statistics, tactics, politics, and geography—
Having been used to serve on horses' backs,
And no great dilettanti in topography
Of fortresses, but fighting where it pleases
Their chiefs to order, were all cut to pieces.

LXXV.

Their column, though the Turkish batteries thunder'd
Upon them, ne'ertheless had reach'd the rampart,
And naturally thought they could have plunder'd
The city, without being further hamper'd.
But, as it happens to brave men, they blunder'd—
The Turks at first pretended to have scamper'd,
Only to draw them 'twixt two bastion-corners,
From whence they sallied on those Christian scorners.

LXXVI.

Then being taken by the tail—a taking
Fatal to bishops as to soldiers—these
Cossacques were all cut off, as day was breaking,
And found their lives were let at a short lease;
But perish'd without shivering or shaking,
Leaving as ladders their heap'd carcases,
O'er which Lieutenant-Colonel Yesouskoi
March'd with the brave battalion of Polouzki:—

LXXVII.

This valiant man kill'd all the Turks he met,
But could not eat them, being, in his turn,
Slain by some Mussulmans, who would not yet,
Without resistance, see their city burn.
The walls were won, but 'twas an even bet
Which of the armies would have cause to mourn:
'Twas blow for blow, disputing inch by inch,
For one would not retreat, nor t'other flinch.

LXXVIII.

Another column also suffer'd much;
And here we may remark with the historian,
Your should but give few cartridges to such
Troops as are meant to march with greatest glory on,

When matters must be carried by the touch
Of the bright bayonet, and they all should hurry on,
They sometimes, with a hankering for existence,
Keep merely firing at a foolish distance.

LXXIX.

A junction of the General Meknop's men
(Without the general, who had fallen some
Before, being badly seconded just then) [time
Was made at length with those who dared to climb
The death-disgorging rampart once again;
And though the Turks' resistance was sublime,
They took the bastion, which the Seraskier
Defended at a price extremely dear.

LXXX.

Juan and Johnson, and some volunteers
Among the foremost offer'd him good quar-
A word which little suits with Seraskiers, [ter,
Or at least suited not this valiant Tartar.
He died, deserving well his country's tears,
A savage sort of military martyr.
An English naval officer, who wish'd
To take him prisoner, was also dish'd:

LXXXI.

For all the answer to his proposition
Was from a pistol-shot that laid him dead:
On which the rest, without more intermission,
Began to lay about with steel and lead—
The pious metals most in requisition
On such occasions; not a single head
Was spared;—three thousand Moslems perish'd here,
And sixteen bayonets pierced the Seraskier.

LXXXII.

The city's taken—only part by part—[street
And Death is drunk with gore; there's not a
Where fights not to the last some desperate heart, [beat.
For those for whom it soon shall cease to
Here War forgot his own destructive art
In more destroying Nature; and the heat
Of carnage, like the Nile's sun-sodden slime,
Engender'd monstrous shapes of every crime.

LXXXIII.

A Russian officer, in martial tread
Over a heap of bodies, felt his heel
Seized fast, as if 'twere by the serpent's head
Whose fangs Eve taught her human seed to feel: [and bled,
In vain he kick'd, and swore, and writhed,
And howl'd for help as wolves do for a meal—
The teeth still kept their gratifying hold,
As do the subtle snakes described of old.

LXXXIV.

A dying Moslem, who had felt the foot
Of a foe o'er him, snatch'd at it, and bit
The very tendon which is most acute [wit
(That which some ancient Muse or modern
Named after thee, Achilles) and quite through't
He made the teeth meet, nor relinquish'd it
Even with his life—for (but they lie) 'tis said
To the live leg still clung the sever'd head.

LXXXV.

However this may be, 'tis pretty sure
The Russian officer for life was lamed,
For the Turk's teeth stuck faster than a skewer,
And left him midst the invalid and maim'd:
The regimental surgeon could not cure
His patient, and perhaps was to be blamed
More than the head of the inveterate foe,
Which was cut off, and scarce even then let go.

LXXXVI.

But then the fact's a fact—and 'tis the part
Of a true poet to escape from fiction,
Whene'er he can; for there is little art [tion
In leaving verse more free from the restric-
Of truth than prose, unless to suit the mart
For what is sometimes call'd poetic diction,
And that outrageous appetite for lies
Which Satan angles with, for souls, like flies.

LXXXVII.

The city's taken, but not render'd!—No!
There's not a Moslem that hath yielded sword:
The blood may gush out, as the Danube's flow
Rolls by the city wall; but deed nor word
Acknowledge aught of dread of death or foe:
In vain the yell of victory is roar'd
By the advancing Muscovite—the groan
Of the last foe is echoed by his own.

LXXXVIII.

The bayonet pierces and the bayonet cleaves,
And human lives are lavish'd everywhere,
As the year closing whirls the scarlet leaves,
When the stripp'd forest bows to the bleak air,
And groans: and thus the peopled city grieves,
Shorn of its best and loveliest, and left bare:
But still it falls in vast and awful splinters,
As oaks blown down with all their thousand winters.

LXXXIX.

It is an awful topic—but 'tis not
My cue, for any time, to be terrific;
For, checker'd as is seen our human lot,
With good, and bad, and worse, alike pro-
Of melancholy merriment, to quote [lific
Too much of one sort would be soporific:
Without, or with, offence to friends or foes,
I sketch your world exactly as it goes.

XC.

And one good action in the midst of crimes
Is "quite refreshing," in the affected phrase
Of these ambrosial, pharisaic times,
With all their pretty milk-and-water ways,

And may serve therefore to bedew these rhymes,
A little scorch'd at present with the blaze
Of conquest and its consequences, which
Make epic poesy so rare and rich.

XCI.

Upon a taken bastion, where there lay [group
Thousands of slaughter'd men, a yet warm
Of murder'd women, who had found their way
To this vain refuge, made the good heart droop
And shudder;—while, as beautiful as May,
A female child of ten years tried to stoop,
And hide her little palpitating breast
Amidst the bodies lull'd in bloody rest.

XCII.

Two villainous Cossacques pursued the child
With flashing eyes and weapons; match'd with them,
The rudest brute that roams Siberia's wild
Has feelings pure and polish'd as a gem—
The bear is civilized, the wolf is mild;
And whom for this at last must we condemn?
Their natures? or their sovereigns, who employ
All arts to teach their subjects to destroy?

XCIII.

Their sabres glitter'd o'er her little head,
Whence her fair hair rose twining with affright:
Her hidden face was plunged amidst the dead,
When Juan caught a glimpse of this sad sight:
I shall not say exactly what he *said*,
Because it might not solace "ears polite";
But what he *did*, was to lay on their backs,
The readiest way of reasoning with Cossacques.

XCIV.

One's hip he slash'd, and split the other's shoulder,
And drove them, with their brutal yells, to seek
If there might be chirurgeons who could solder
The wounds they richly merited, and shriek
Their baffled rage and pain; while, waxing colder,
As he turn'd o'er each pale and gory cheek,
Don Juan raised his little captive from
The heap a moment more had made her tomb.

XCV.

And she was chill as they, and on her face
A slender streak of blood announced how near
Her fate had been to that of all her race;
For the same blow which laid her mother trace,
here
Had scarr'd her brow, and left its crimson
As the last link with all she had held dear:
But else unhurt, she open'd her large eyes,
And gazed on Juan with a wild surprise.

XCVI.

Just at this instant, while their eyes were fix'd
Upon each other, with dilated glance,
In Juan's look, pain, pleasure, hope, fear, mix'd
With joy to save, and dread of some mischance
Unto his protégée; while hers, transfix'd
With infant terrors, glared as from a trance,
A pure, transparent, pale, yet radiant face,
Like to a lighted alabaster vase;—

XCVII.

Up came John Johnson (I will not say "*Jack*,"
For that were vulgar, cold, and common-place,
On great occasions, such as an attack
On cities, as hath been the present case):
Up Johnson came, with hundreds at his back,
Exclaiming—"Juan! Juan! On, boy! brace
Your arm, and I'll bet Moscow to a dollar,
That you and I will win St. George's collar.*

XCVIII.

"The Seraskier is knock'd upon the head,
But the stone bastion still remains, wherein
The old Pacha sits, among some hundreds dead,
Smoking his pipe quite calmly 'midst the din
Of our artillery and his own: 'tis said
Our kill'd, already piled up to the chin,
Lie round the battery; but still it batters,
And grape in volleys, like a vineyard, scatters.

XCIX.

"Then up with me!" But Juan answer'd,—"Look
Upon this child—I saved her—must not leave
Her life to chance; but point me out some nook
Of safety, where she less may shrink and grieve,
And I am with you."—Whereon Johnson took
A glance around — and shrugg'd, and twitch'd his sleeve
And black silk neckcloth — and replied, ["You're right:
Poor thing! what's to be done? I'm puzzled quite."

C.

Said Juan,—"Whatsoever is to be
Done, I'll not quit her till she seems secure
Of present life a good deal more than we."
Quoth Johnson, "*Neither* will I quite ensure;
But at the least *you* may die gloriously."—
Juan replied,—"At least I will endure
Whate'er is to be borne—but not resign
This child, who is parentless, and therefore mine."

CI.

Johnson said,—"Juan, we've no time to lose;
The child's a pretty child—a very pretty—
I never saw such eyes—but hark! now choose
Between your fame and feelings, pride and pity—
Hark! how the roar increases!—no excuse
Will serve when there is plunder in a city;
I should be loth to march without you; but,
By God, we'll be too late for the first cut."

* The Russian military order.

CII.

But Juan was immovable, until
Johnson, who really loved him in his way,
Pick'd out amongst his followers, with some skill, [prey;
Such as he thought the least given up to
And swearing, if the infant came to ill,
That they should all be shot on the next day;
But if she were deliver'd, safe and sound,
They should at least have fifty roubles round,

CIII.

And all allowances, besides, of plunder, [then
In fair proportion with their comrades;—
Juan consented to march on through thunder,
Which thinn'd at every step their ranks of men;
And yet the rest rush'd eagerly—no wonder,
For they were heated by the hope of gain;
A thing which happens everywhere each
No hero trusteth wholly to half-pay. [day—

CIV.

And such is victory, and such is man! [God
At least nine-tenths of what we call so:—
May have another name for half we scan
As human beings, or His ways are odd.
But to our subject. A brave Tartar khan—
Or "sultan," as the author (to whose nod
In prose I bend my humble verse) doth call
This chieftain—somehow would not yield at all.

CV.

But flank'd by *five* brave sons (such is polygamy, [none
That she spawns warriors by the score, where
Are prosecuted for that false crime, bigamy),
He never would believe the city won, [Am I
While courage clung but to a single twig.—
Describing Priam's, Peleus', or Jove's son?
Neither—but a good, plain, old, temperate man,
Who fought with his five children in the van.

CVI.

To *take* him was the point. The truly brave,
When they behold the brave oppress'd with odds,
Are touch'd with a desire to shield and save;—
A mixture of wild beasts and demi-gods
Are they—now furious as the sweeping wave,
Now moved with pity: even as sometimes
The rugged tree unto the summer wind, [nods
Compassion breathes along the savage mind.

CVII.

But he would *not* be *taken*, and replied
To all the propositions of surrender,
By mowing Christians down on every side,
As obstinate as Swedish Charles at Bender.
His five brave boys no less the foe defied; [der,
Whereon the Russian pathos grew less ten-
As being a virtue, like terrestrial patience,
Apt to wear out on trifling provocations.

CVIII.

And spite of Johnson and of Juan, who
Expended all their Eastern phraseology
In begging him, for God's sake, just to show
So much less fight as might form an apology
For *them* in saving such a desperate foe—
He hew'd away, like doctors of theology,
When they dispute with skeptics; and, with curses, [nurses
Struck at his friends, as babies beat their

CIX.

Nay, he had wounded, though but slightly, both
Juan and Johnson; whereupon they fell,
The first with sighs, the second with an oath
Upon his angry sultanship, pell-mell,
And all around were grown exceeding wroth
At such a pertinacious infidel,
And pour'd upon him and his sons, like rain
Which they resisted like a sandy plain

CX.

That drinks, and still is dry. At last they perish'd—
His second son was levell'd by a shot;
His third was sabred; and the fourth, most cherish'd
Of all the five, on bayonets met his lot:
The fifth, who, by a Christian mother nourish'd,
Had been neglected, ill-used, and what not
Because deform'd, yet died all game and bottom,
To save a sire who blush'd that he begot him.

CXI.

The eldest was a true and tameless Tartar,
As great a scorner of the Nazarene
As ever Mahomet pick'd out for a martyr,
Who only saw the black-eyed girls in green,
Who make the beds of those who won't take quarter
On earth in Paradise; and when once seen,
Those houris, like all other pretty creatures,
Do just whate'er they please, by dint of features.

CXII.

And what they pleased to do with the young khan
In heaven, I know not, nor pretend to guess;
But doubtless they prefer a fine young man
To tough old heroes, and can do no less.
And that's the cause, no doubt, why, if we scan
A field of battle's ghastly wilderness,
For one rough, weather-beaten, veteran body,
You'll find ten thousand handsome coxcombs bloody.

CXIII.

Your houris also have a natural pleasure
In lopping off your lately-married men,
Before the bridal hours have danced their measure,
And the sad, second moon grows dim again,
Or dull repentance hath had dreary leisure
To wish him back a bachelor now and then:

And thus your houri (it may be) disputes
Of these brief blossoms the immediate fruits.

CXIV.

Thus the young khan, with houris in his sight,
Thought not upon the charms of four young brides,
But bravely rush'd on his first heavenly night.
In short, howe'er our better faith derides,
These black-eyed virgins make the Moslems fight, [besides—
As though there were one heaven, and none
Whereas, if all be true we hear of heaven
And hell, there must at least be six or seven.

CXV.

So fully flash'd the phantom on his eyes,
That, when the very lance was in his heart,
He shouted "Allah!" and saw Paradise,
With all its veil of mystery drawn apart,
And bright eternity without disguise
On his soul, like a ceaseless sunrise, dart:—
With prophets, houris, angels, saints, described
In one voluptuous blaze—and then he died.

CXVI.

But with a heavenly rapture on his face, [see
The good old khan, who long had ceased to
Houris, or aught except his florid race,
Who grew like cedars round him gloriously—
When he beheld his latest hero grace [tree,
The earth, which he became like a fell'd
Paused for a moment from the fight, and cast
A glance on that slain son, his first and last.

CXVII.

The soldiers, who beheld him drop his point,
Stopp'd, as if once more to concede
Quarter, in case he bid them not "aroynt!"
As he before had done. He did not heed
Their pause or signs: his heart was out of joint,
And shook (till now unshaken) like a reed,
As he look'd down upon his children gone,
And felt—though done with life—he was alone.

CXVIII.

But 'twas a transient tremor:—with a spring
Upon the Russian steel, his breast he flung,
As carelessly as hurls the moth her wing
Against the light wherein she dies: he clung
Closer, that all the deadlier they might wring,
Unto the bayonets which had pierced his young:
And, throwing back a dim look on his sons,
In one wide wound poured forth his soul at once.

CXIX.

'Tis strange enough—the rough, tough soldiers, who
Spared neither sex nor age in their career
Of carnage, when this old man was pierced through,
And lay before them with his children near,
Touch'd by the heroism of him they slew,
Were melted for a moment: though no tear
Flow'd from their bloodshot eyes, all red with strife,
They honor'd such determined scorn of life.

CXX.

But the stone bastion still kept up its fire,
Where the chief pacha calmly held his post:
Some twenty times he made the Russ retire,
And baffled the assaults of all their host.
At length he condescended to inquire
If yet the city's rest were won or lost;
And, being told the latter, sent a bey
To answer Ribas' summons to give way.

CXXI.

In the mean time, cross-legg'd, with great *sang-froid*,
Among the scorching ruins he sat smoking
Tobacco on a little carpet;—Troy [looking
Saw nothing like the scene around;—yet
With martial stoicism, nought seem'd to annoy
His stern philosophy; but gently stroking
His beard, he puff'd his pipe's ambrosial gales,
As if he had three lives, as well as tails.

CXXII.

The town was taken—whether he might yield
Himself or bastion, little matter'd now;
His stubborn valor was no further shield.
Ismail's no more! the crescent's silver bow
Sunk, and the crimson cross glared o'er the field,
But red with no *redeeming* gore: the glow
Of burning streets, like moonlight on the water, [ter.
Was imaged back in blood, the sea of slaugh-

CXXIII.

All that the mind would shrink from, of excesses;
All that the body perpetrates, of bad;
All that we read, hear, dream, of man's distresses;
All that the devil would do if run stark mad;
All that defies the worst which pen expresses;
All by which hell is peopled, or as sad
As hell—mere mortals who their power abuse—
Was here (as heretofore and since) let loose.

CXXIV.

If here and there some transient trait of pity
Was shown, and some more noble heart broke through [pretty
Its bloody bond, and saved, perhaps, some
Child, or an aged helpless man or two—
What's this, in one annihilated city, [grew?
Where thousand loves, and ties, and duties,
Cockneys of London! Muscadins of Paris!
Just ponder what a pious pastime war is.

CXXV.

Think how the joys of reading a Gazette
Are purchased by all agonies and crimes:
Or, if these do not move you, don't forget,
Such doom may be your own in after-times.

Meantime the Taxes, Castlereagh, and Debt,
Are hints as good as sermons, or as rhymes.
Read your own hearts and Ireland's present story,
Then feed her famine fat with Wellesley's glory.

CXXVI.

But still there is unto a patriot nation,
Which loves so well its country and its king,
A subject of sublimest exultation—
Bear it, ye Muses, on your brightest wing!
Howe'er the mighty locust, Desolation, cling,
Strip your green fields, and to your harvest
Gaunt Famine never shall approach the throne—
Though Ireland starve, great George weighs twenty stone.

CXXVII.

But let me put an end unto my theme:
There was an end of Ismail—hapless town!
Far flash'd her burning towers o'er Danube's stream,
And redly ran his blushing waters down.
The horrid war-whoop and the shriller scream
Rose still; but fainter were the thunders grown:
Of forty thousand who had mann'd the wall,
Some hundreds breathed—the rest were silent all!

CXXVIII.

In one thing, ne'ertheless, 'tis fit to praise
The Russian army upon this occasion,
A virtue much in fashion nowadays,
And therefore worthy of commemoration.
The topic's tender, so shall be my phrase—
Perhaps the season's chill, and their long station
In winter's depth, or want of rest and victual,
Had made them chaste—they ravish'd very little.

CXXIX.

Much did they slay, more plunder, and no less
Might here and there occur some violation
In the other line; but not to such excess
As when the French, that dissipated nation,
Take towns by storm: no causes can I guess
Except cold weather and commiseration;
But all the ladies, save some twenty score,
Were almost as much virgins as before.

CXXX.

Some odd mistakes, too, happen'd in the dark,
Which show'd a want of lanterns, or of taste—
Indeed, the smoke was such they scarce could mark
Their friends from foes,—besides, such things from haste
Occur, though rarely when there is a spark
Of light to save the venerably chaste:
But six old damsels, each of seventy years,
Were all deflower'd by different grenadiers.

CXXXI.

But, on the whole, their continence was great;
So that some disappointment there ensued
To those who had felt the inconvenient state
Of "single blessedness," and thought it good
(Since it was not their fault, but only fate,
To bear these crosses)for each waning prude
To make a Roman sort of Sabine wedding,
Without the expense and the suspense of bedding.

CXXXII.

Some voices of the buxom middle-aged
Were also heard to wonder, in the din
(Widows of forty were these birds long caged)
"Wherefore the ravishing did not begin!"
But while the thirst for gore and plunder raged,
There was small leisure for superfluous sin
But whether they escaped or no, lies hid
In darkness—I can only hope they did.

CXXXIII.

Suwarrow now was conqueror—a match
For Timour or for Zinghis in his trade.
While mosques and streets, beneath his eyes, like thatch
Blazed, and the cannon's roar was scarce allay'd
With bloody hands he wrote his first despatch
And here exactly follows what he said:
"Glory to *God* and to the Empress!" (*Powers Eternal! such names mingled!*) "Ismail's ours."

CXXXIV.

Methinks these are the most tremendous words
Since "Menè, Menè, Tekel," and "Upharsin," [swords,
Which hands or pens have ever traced of
Heaven help me! I'm but little of a parson
What Daniel read was shorthand of the Lord's,
Severe, sublime! the prophet wrote no farce
The fate of nations; but this Russ, so witty, [om
Could rhyme, like Nero, o'er a burning city.*

CXXXV.

He wrote this Polar melody, and set it,
Duly accompanied by shrieks and groans,
Which few will sing, I trust, but none forget
For I will teach, if possible, the stones [it
To rise against earth's tyrants. Never let it
Be said that we still truckle unto thrones;—
But ye—our children's children! think how we
Show'd *what things were* before the world was free!

CXXXVI.

That hour is not for us, but 'tis for you:
And as, in the great joy of your millennium,
You hardly will believe such things were true
As now occur, I thought that I would pen you 'em;
But may their very memory perish too!—
Yet if perchance remember'd, still disdain you 'em
More than you scorn the savages of yore, [gore.
Who *painted* their *bare* limbs, but *not* with

* In the original Russian he wrote—

Slava bogu! slava vam
Krepost vyala y ia tam.

CXXXVII.

And when you hear historians talk of thrones,
And those that sate upon them, let it be
As we now gaze upon the mammoth's bones,
And wonder what old world such things could see,
Or hieroglyphics on Egyptian stones,
The pleasant riddles of futurity—
Guessing at what shall happily be hid,
As the real purpose of a pyramid.

CXXXVIII.

Reader! I've kept my word—at least so far
As the first canto promised. You have now
Had sketches of love, tempest, travel, war—
All very accurate, you must allow,
And *epic*, if plain truth should prôve no bar;
For I have drawn much less with a long bow
Than my forerunners. Carelessly I sing,
But Phœbus lends me now and then a string,

CXXXIX.

With which I can still harp, and carp, and fiddle.
What further hath befallen, or may befall,
The hero of this grand poetic riddle,
I by and by may tell you, if at all:
But now I choose to break off in the middle,
Worn out with battering Ismail's stubborn wall,
While Juan is sent off with the despatch,
For which all Petersburg is on the watch.

CXL.

This special honor was conferr'd, because
He had behaved with courage and humanity—
Which *last* men like when they have time to pause
From their ferocities, produced by vanity.
His little captive gain'd him some applause,
For saving her amidst the wild insanity
Of carnage,—and I think he was more glad in her
Safety, than his new order of St. Vladimir.

CXLI.

The Moslem orphan went with her protector,
For she was homeless, houseless, helpless; all
Her friends, like the sad family of Hector,
Had perish'd on the field by by the wall;
Her very place of birth was but a spectre
Of what it had been; there the Muezzin's call
To prayer was heard no more!—and Juan wept,
And made a vow to shield her, which he kept.

CANTO THE NINTH.

1823.

I.

Oh, Wellington! (or "Villainton"—for Fame
Sounds the heroic syllables both ways:
France could not even conquer your great name,
But punn'd it down to this facetious phrase—
Beating or beaten, she will laugh the same),
You have obtain'd great pensions and much praise:
Glory like yours should any dare gainsay,
Humanity would rise, and thunder "Nay!"*

II.

I don't think that you used Kinnaird quite well
In Marinèt's affair—in fact, 'twas shabby;
And, like some other things, won't do to tell
Upon your tomb in Westminster's old Abbey.
Upon the rest 'tis not worth while to dwell,
Such tales being for the tea-hours of some tabby;
But though your years as *man* tend fast to zero,
In fact your Grace is still but a *young hero*.

III.

Though Britain owes (and pays you too) so much,
Yet Europe doubtless owes you greatly more:
You have repair'd Legitimacy's crutch,
A prop not quite so certain as before;
The Spanish and the French, as well as Dutch,
Have seen, and felt, how strongly you *restore;*
And Waterloo has made the world your debtor
(I wish your bards would sing it rather better).

IV.

You are "the best of cut-throats":—do not start:
The phrase is Shakspeare's, and not misapplied:
War's a brain-spattering, windpipe-slitting art,
Unless her cause by right be sanctified.
If you have acted *once* a generous part,
The world, not the world's masters, will decide,
And I shall be delighted to learn who,
Save you and yours, have gain'd by Waterloo?

V.

I am no flatterer—you've supp'd full of flattery;
They say you like it too—'tis no great wonder.
He whose whole life has been assault and battery,
At last may get a little tired of thunder;
And, swallowing eulogy much more than satire, he
May like being praised for every lucky blunder;
Called "Savior of the Nations" not yet saved,
And "Europe's Liberator"—still enslaved.*

VI.

I've done. Now go, and dine from off the plate
Presented by the Prince of the Brazils;
And send the sentinel before your gate

* Query, Ney?—Printer's Devil.

* Vide speeches in Parliament after the battle of Waterloo.

A slice or two from your luxurious meals:
He fought, but has not fed so well of late.
Some hunger, too, they say the people feels:—
There is no doubt that you deserve your ra-
But pray give back a little to the nation. [tion,

VII.

I don't mean to reflect—a man so great as
You, my Lord Duke, is far above reflection:
The high Roman fashion, too, of Cincinnatus,
With modern history has but small connection:
Though as an Irishman you love potatoes,
You need not take them under your direction;
And half a million for your Sabine farm
Is rather dear:—I'm sure I mean no harm.

VIII.

Great men have always scorn'd great recompenses:
Epaminondas saved his Thebes, and died,
Not leaving even his funeral expenses:
George Washington had thanks, and nought beside, [men's is)
Except the all-cloudless glory (which few
To free his country: Pitt, too, had his pride,
And, as a high soul'd minister of state, is
Renown'd for ruining Great Britain gratis.

IX.

Never had mortal man such opportunity,
Except Napoleon, or abused it more: [unity
You might have freed fallen Europe from the
Of tyrants, and been blest from shore to shore: [tune it ye?
And *now*, what *is* your fame? Shall the Muse
Now that the rabble's first vain shouts are o'er?
Go! hear it in your famish'd country's cries!
Behold the world! and curse your victories!

X.

As these new cantos touch on warlike feats,
To *you* the unflattering Muse deigns to inscribe
Truths, that you will not read in the Gazettes,
But which 'tis time to teach the hireling tribe
Who fatten on their country's gore and debts,
Must be recited—and without a bribe.
You *did great* things; but not being *great* in mind,
Have left *undone* the *greatest*—and mankind.

XI.

Death laughs—Go, ponder o'er the skeleton
With which men image out the unknown thing
That hides the past world, like to a set sun
Which still elsewhere may rouse a brighter spring—
Death laughs at all you weep for:—look upon
This hourly dread of all! whose *threaten'd sting*
Turns life to terror, even though in its sheath!
Mark how its lipless mouth grins without breath!

XII.

Mark! how it laughs and scorns at all you are!
And yet *was* what you are: from *ear* to *ear*
It *laughs not*—there is now no fleshly bar
So call'd; the Antic long hath ceased to *hear*
But still he *smiles;* and whether near or far
He strips from man that mantle (far more dear
Than even the tailor's), his incarnate skin,
White, black, or copper—the dead bones will grin.

XIII.

And thus Death laughs,—it is sad merriment!
But still it *is* so: and with such example,
Why should not Life be equally content
With his superior in a smile to trample
Upon the nothings which are daily spent
Like bubbles on an ocean much less ample
Than the eternal deluge which devours
Suns as rays—worlds like atoms—years like hours?

XIV.

"To be, or not to be? that is the question,"
Says Shakspeare, who just now is much in fashion.
I'm neither Alexander nor Hephæstion, [sion
Nor ever had for *abstract* fame much pas-
But would much rather have a sound digestion
Than Buonaparte's cancer:—could I dash
Through fifty victories to fame or shame, [one
Without a stomach—what were a good name?

XV.

"Oh! dura ilia messorum!"*—"Oh!
Ye rigid guts of reapers!" I translate
For the great benefit of those who know
What indigestion is—that inward fate [flow.
Which makes all Styx through one small liver
A peasant's sweat is worth his lord's estate
Let *this* one toil for bread—*that* rack for rent,
He who sleeps best may be the most content.

XVI.

"To be, or not to be?" Ere I decide,
I should be glad to know that which *is being?*
'Tis true we speculate both far and wide,
And deem, because we *see*, we are *all seeing:*
For my part, I'll enlist on neither side,
Until I see both sides for once agreeing.
For me, I sometimes think that life is death,
Rather than life a mere affair of breath.

XVII.

"Que sçais-je?" was the motto of Montaigne,
As also of the first academicians:
That all is dubious which man may attain,
Was one of their most favorite positions.
There's no such thing as certainty, that's plain
As any of Mortality's conditions;

* Horace.

So little do we know what we're about in
This world, I doubt if doubt itself be doubting.

XVIII.

It is a pleasant voyage, perhaps, to float,
Like Pyrrho,* on a sea of speculation:
But what if carrying sail capsize the boat?
Your wise men don't know much of navigation;
And swimming long in the abyss of thought
Is apt to tire: a calm and shallow station
Well-nigh the shore, where one stoops down and gathers
Some pretty shell, is best for moderate bathers.

XIX.

"But heaven," as Cassio says, "is above all—
No more of this, then—let us pray." † We have [fall,
Souls to save, since Eve's slip and Adam's
Which tumbled all mankind into the grave,
Besides fish, beasts, and birds. "The sparrow's fall
Is special providence," ‡ though how it gave
Offense, we know not; probably it perch'd
Upon the tree which Eve so fondly search'd.

XX.

O ye immortal gods! what is theogony?
O thou, too, mortal man! what is philanthropy?
O world, which was and is! what is cosmogony?
Some people have accused me of misanthropy;
And yet I know no more than the mahogany
That forms this desk, of what they mean: *lykanthropy*
I comprehend; for, without transformation,
Men become wolves on any slight occasion.

XXI.

But I, the mildest, meekest of mankind,
Like Moses, or Melancthon, who have ne'er
Done anything exceedingly unkind, [forbear
And (though I could not now and then
Following the bent of body or of mind)
Have always had a tendency to spare—
Why do they call me misanthrope? Because
They hate me, not I them:—and here we'll pause.

II.

'Tis time we should proceed with our good poem—
For I maintain that it is really good,
Not only in the body, but the proem,
However little both are understood
Just now—but by and by the truth will show
Herself in her sublimest attitude; ['em
And till she doth, I fain must be content
To share her beauty and her banishment.

XXIII.

Our hero (and, I trust, kind reader, yours—)
Was left upon his way to the chief city
Of the immortal Peter's polish'd boors,
Who still have shown themselves more brave than witty.
I know its mighty empire now allures
Much flattery—even Voltaire's, and that's a pity.
For me, I deem an absolute autocrat
Not a barbarian, but much worse than that.

XXIV.

And I will war, at least in words (and—should
My chance so happen—deeds), with all who war [most rude,
With Thought; and of Thought's foes by far
Tyrants and sycophants have been and are.
I know not who may conquer: If I could
Have such a prescience, it should be no bar
To this my plain, sworn downright detestation
Of every despotism in every nation.

XXV.

It is not that I adulate the people:
Without *me*, there are demagogues enough,
And infidels, to pull down every steeple,
And set up in their stead some common stuff.
Whether they may sow scepticism to reap hell,
As is the Christian dogma rather rough,
I do not know:—I wish men to be free
As much from mobs as kings—from you as me.

XXVI.

The consequence is, being of no party,
I shall offend all parties;—never mind!
My words, at least, are more sincere and hearty
Than if I sought to sail before the wind.
He who has nought to gain can have small art; he
Who neither wishes to be bound nor bind,
May still expatiate freely, as will I,
Nor give my voice to slavery's jackal cry.

XXVII.

That's an appropriate simile, *that jackal*,—
I've heard them in the Ephesian ruins howl*
By night, as do that mercenary pack all,
Power's base purveyors, who for pickings prowl, [all.
And scent the prey their masters would attack
However, the poor jackals are less foul
(As being the brave lion's keen providers)
Than human insects, catering for spiders.

XXVIII.

Raise but an arm, 'twill brush their web away;
And without *that*, their poison and their claws
Are useless. Mind, good people, what I say—
(Or rather peoples)—*go on* without pause!
The web of these tarantulas each day [cause:
Increases, till you shall make common
None, save the Spanish fly and attic bee,
As yet are strongly stinging to be free.

XXIX.

Don Juan, who had shone in the late slaughter,
Was left upon his way with the despatch,

* The philosopher of Elis, who doubted everything.
† See "Othello." ‡ Hamlet.

* In Greece, I never saw or heard these animals: but among the ruins of Ephesus I have heard them in hundreds.

Where blood was talk'd of as we would of water;
And carcases, that lay as thick as thatch
O'er silenced cities, merely served to flatter
Fair Catharine's pastime—who look'd on the match
Between these nations as a main of cocks,
Wherein she liked her own to stand like rocks.

XXX.

And there in a *kibitka* he roll'd on
(A cursed sort of carriage without springs,
Which on rough roads leaves scarcely a whole bone),
Pondering on glory, chivalry, and kings,
And orders, and on all that he had done—
And wishing that post-horses had the wings
Of Pegasus, or, at the least, post-chaises
Had feathers, when a traveller on deep ways is.

XXXI.

At every jolt—and they were many—still
He turn'd his eyes upon his little charge,
As if he wish'd that she should fare less ill
Than he, in these sad highways left at large
To ruts, and flints, and lovely Nature's skill,
Who is no pavior, nor admits a barge
On *her* canals, where God takes sea and land,
Fishery and farm, both into His own hand.

XXXII.

At least He pays no rent, and has best right
To be the first of what we used to call
"Gentlemen farmers,"—a race worn out quite,
Since lately there have been no rents at all,
And "gentlemen" are in a piteous plight,
And "farmers" can't raise Ceres from her fall: [thoughts
She fell with Buonaparte—what strange
Arise, when we see emperors fall with oats!

XXXIII.

But Juan turn'd his eyes on the sweet child
Whom he had saved from slaughter—what a trophy!
O ye who build up monuments defiled
With gore, like Nadir Shah, that costive
Who, after leaving Hindostan a wild, [sophy
And scarce to the Mogul a cup of coffee
To soothe his woes withal, was slain, the sinner! [ner;—*
Because he could no more digest his din-

XXXIV.

O ye! or we! or he! or she! reflect
That *one* life saved, especially if young
Or pretty, is a thing to recollect,
Far sweeter than the greenest laurels sprung
From the manure of human clay, though deck'd
With all the praises ever said or sung:
Though hymn'd by every harp, unless within
Your heart joins chorus, Fame is but a din.

* He was killed in a conspiracy, after his temper had been exasperated by his extreme costivity to a degree of insanity.

XXXV.

O ye great authors, luminous, voluminous!
Ye twice ten hundred thousand daily scribes!
Whose pamphlets, volumes, newspapers, illumine us; [bribes
Whether you're paid by Government in
To prove the public debt is not consuming us— [kibes,
Or roughly treading on the "courtier's"
With clownish heel, your popular circulation
Feeds you by printing half the realm's starvation!—

XXXVI.

O ye great authors!—*Apropos des bottes*,—
I have forgotten what I meant to say,
As sometimes have been greater sages' lots:
'Twas something calculated to allay
All wrath in barracks, palaces, or cots:
Certes it would have been but thrown away
And that's one comfort for my lost advice;
Although, no doubt, it was beyond all price.

XXXVII.

But let it go: it will one day be found
With other relics of "a former world,"
When this world shall be *former*, under ground, [curl'd
Thrown topsy-turvy, twisted, crisp'd, and
Baked, fried, or burnt, turn'd inside out, or drown'd, [hurl'd
Like all the worlds before, which have been
First out of, and then back again to, chaos,
The superstratum which will overlay us.

XXXVIII.

So Cuvier says;—and then shall come again
Unto the new creation, rising out [strain
From our old crash, some mystic, ancient
Of things destroy'd and left in airy doubt
Like to the notions we now entertain
Of Titans, giants, fellows of about
Some hundred feet in height, *not* to say *miles*
And mammoths and your winged crocodiles.

XXXIX.

Think if then George the Fourth should be dug up! [Eas
How the new worldlings of the then new
Will wonder where such animals could sup!!
(For they themselves will be but of the least
Even words miscarry, when too oft they pu
And every new creation hath decreased
In size, from overworking the material—
Men are but maggots of some huge Earth's burial.)

XL.

How will—to these young people just thrust out [plough
From some fresh Paradise, and set to
And dig, and sweat, and turn themselves about, [and sow
And plant, and reap, and spin, and grind
Till all the arts at length are brought about,

Especially of war and taxing—how, I'em,
I say, will these great relics, when they see
Look like the monsters of a new museum?

XLI.

But I am apt to grow too metaphysical:
"The time is out of joint," and so am I.
I quite forget this poem's merely quizzical,
And deviate into matters rather dry.
I ne'er decide what I shall say, and this I call
Much too poetical: men should know why
They write, and for what end; but, note or text,
I never know the word which will come next.

XLII.

So on I ramble, now and then narrating,
Now pondering—it is time we should nar-rate.
I left Don Juan, with his horses baiting—
Now we'll get o'er the ground at a great rate.
I shall not be particular in stating
His journey, we've so many tours of late:
Suppose him then at Petersburg: suppose
That pleasant capital of painted snows:

XLIII.

Suppose him in a handsome uniform;
A scarlet coat, black facings, a long plume,
Waving, like sails new shiver'd in a storm,
Over a cock'd hat, in a crowded room,
And brilliant breeches, bright as a cairngorm,
Of yellow cassimere we may presume,
White stockings drawn uncurdled as new milk,
O'er limbs whose symmetry set off the silk.

XLIV.

Suppose him, sword by side, and hat in hand,
Made up by youth, fame, and an army tailor—
That great enchanter, at whose rod's command [turns paler,
Beauty springs forth, and Nature's self
Seeing how Art can make her work more grand [jailor)—
(When she don't pin men's limbs in like a
Behold him placed as if upon a pillar! He
Seems Love turn'd a lieutenant of artillery!

XLV.

His bandage slipp'd down into a cravat;
His wings subdued to epaulettes; his quiver
Shrunk to a scabbard, with his arrows at
His side as a small sword, but sharp as ever:
His bow converted into a cock'd hat;
But still so like, that Psyche were more clever [stupid),
Than some wives (who make blunders no less
If she had not mistaken him for Cupid.

XLVI.

The courtiers stared, the ladies whisper'd, and
The Empress smiled; the reigning favorite frown'd—
I quite forget which of them was in hand
Just then; as they are rather numerous found,
Who took by turns that difficult command,
Since first her Majesty was singly crown'd:
But they were mostly nervous six-foot fellows,
All fit to make a Patagonian jealous.

XLVII.

Juan was none of these, but slight and slim,
Blushing and beardless; and yet ne'ertheless
There was something in his turn of limb,
And still more in his eye, which seem'd to express,
That though he look'd one of the seraphim,
There lurk'd a man beneath the spirit's dress.
Besides, the Empress sometimes liked a boy,
And had just buried the fair-faced Lanskoi.*

XLVIII.

No wonder then that Vermoloff, or Momonoff,
Or Scherbatoff, or any other *off* [enough
Or *on*, might dread her Majesty had not room
Within her bosom (which was not too tough)
For a new flame; a thought to cast of gloom enough
Along the aspect, whether smooth or rough,
Of him who, in the language of his station,
Then held that "high official situation."

XLIX.

O gentle ladies! should you seek to know
The import of this diplomatic phrase,
Bid Ireland's Londonderry's Marquess† show
His parts of speech; and, in the strange dis-plays
Of that odd string of words, all in a row,
Which none divine, and every one obeys,
Perhaps you may pick out some queer *no* meaning,
Of that weak wordy harvest the sole gleaning.

L.

I think I can explain myself without
That sad, inexplicable beast of prey—
That Sphinx, whose words would ever be a doubt,
Did not his deeds unriddle them each day—
That monstrous hieroglyphic—that long spout
Of blood and water, leaden Castlereagh!
And here I must an anecdote relate,
But luckily of no great length or weight.

LI.

An English lady ask'd of an Italian
What were the actual and official duties [on
Of the strange thing some women set a-value
Which hovers oft about some married beau-
Call'd "Cavalier servente?" a Pygmalion [ties,
Whose statues warm (I fear, alas, too true 'tis) [them,
Beneath his art. The dame, press'd to disclose
Said, "Lady, I beseech you to *suppose them.*"

LII.

And thus I supplicate your supposition,
And mildest, matron-like interpretation

* He was the grande passion of the grande Catharine. See her Life, under the head of "Lanskoi."

† This was written long before the suicide of that person.

Of the imperial favorite's condition. [tion,
'Twas a high place, the highest in the na-
In fact, if not in rank; and the suspicion
Of any one's attaining to his station,
No doubt gave pain, where each new pair of shoulders [holders.
If rather broad, makes stocks rise, and their

LIII.

Juan, I said, was a most beauteous boy,
And had retain'd his boyish look beyond
The usual hirsute seasons, which destroy
With beards, and whiskers, and the like, the fond
Parisian aspect, which upset old Troy,
And founded Doctors' Commons:—I have conn'd [quer'd,
The history of divorces, which, though che-
Calls Ilion's the first damages on record.

LIV.

And Catharine, who loved all things (save her lord, [much,
Who was gone to his place), and pass'd for
Admiring those (by dainty dames abhorr'd)
Gigantic gentlemen, yet had a touch
Of sentiment; and he she most adored
Was the lamented Lanskoi, who was such
A lover as had cost her many a tear,
And yet but made a middling grenadier.

LV.

O thou *teterrima causa* of all *belli*—* [script!
Thou gate of life and death—thou nonde-
Whence is our exit and our entrance,—well I
May pause in pondering how all souls are dipt
In thy perennial fountain;—how man *fell* I
Know not, since knowledge saw her branches stript
Of her first fruit; but how he falls and rises
Since, thou hast settled beyond all surmises.

LVI.

Some call thee "the worst cause of war," but I
Maintain thou art the *best;* for, after all,
From thee we come, to thee we go, and why
To get at thee not batter down a wall,
Or waste a world, since no one can deny
Thou dost replenish worlds, both great and small;
With or without thee, all things at a stand
Are, or would be, thou sea of life's dry land!

LVII.

Catharine, who was the grand epitome
Of that great cause of war, or peace, or what
You please (it causes all the things which be,
So you may take your choice of this or that)—
Catharine, I say, was very glad to see [sat
The handsome herald, on whose plumage
Victory; and, pausing as she saw him kneel
With his despatch, forgot to break the seal.

* Hor. Sat. lib. i. Sat. iii.

LVIII.

Then, recollecting the whole empress, nor
Forgetting quite the woman (which com-posed [tore
At least three parts of this great whole) she
The letter open with an air which posed
The court that watch'd each look her visage wore,
Until a royal smile at length disclosed[gracious.
Fair weather for the day. Though rather spacious,
Her face was noble, her eyes fine, mouth

LIX.

Great joy was hers, or rather joys: the first
Was a ta'en city, thirty thousand slain.
Glory and triumph o'er her aspect burst,
As an East Indian sunrise on the main.
These quench'd a moment her ambition's thirst—
So Arab deserts drink in summer's rain:
In vain!—As fall the dews on quenchless sands,
Blood only serves to wash Ambition's hands.

LX.

Her next amusement was more fanciful:
She smiled at mad Suwarrow's rhymes, who threw
Into a Russian couplet rather dull,
The whole gazette of thousands whom he slew.
Her third was feminine enough to annul
The shudder which runs naturally through
Our veins, when things call'd sovereigns think to kill, and generals turn it into jest. [it best

LXI.

The two first feelings ran their course com-plete, [mouth;
And lighted first her eye, and then her
The whole court look'd immediately most sweet, [drouth—
Like flowers well water'd after a long
But when on the lieutenant at her feet
Her Majesty, who liked to gaze on youth
Almost as much as on a new despatch,
Glanced mildly, all the world was on the watch.

LXII.

Though somewhat large, exuberant, and truculent, [a figure
When *wroth*,—while *pleased*, she was as fine
As those who like things rosy, ripe, and succulent, [vigor.
Would wish to look on while they are in
She could repay each amatory look you lent
With interest, and in turn was wont with rigor
To exact of Cupid's bills the full amount
At sight, nor would permit you to discount.

LXIII.

With her the latter, though at times conve-nient,
Was not so necessary; for they tell
That she was handsome, and, though fierce, *look'd* lenient,
And always used her favorites too well,

If once beyond her boudoir's precincts in ye went,
Your "fortune" was in a fair way "to swell
A man" (as Giles says*); for, though she would widow all
Nations, she liked man as an individual.

LXIV.

What a strange thing is man! and what a stranger
Is woman! What a whirlwind is her head!
And what a whirlpool, full of depth and danger,
Is all the rest about her! Whether wed
Or widow, maid or mother, she can change her
Mind like the wind; whatever she has said
Or done, is light to what she'll say or do—
The oldest thing on record, and yet new!

LXV.

Oh Catharine! (for of all interjections,
To thee both *oh!* and *ah!* belong of right,
In love and war), how odd are the connections
Of human thoughts, which jostle in their flight! [tions:
Just now *yours* were cut out in different sec-
First, Ismail's capture caught your fancy quite; [batch;
Next, of new knights, the fresh and glorious
And, *thirdly*, he who brought you the despatch!

LXVI.

Shakspeare talks of "the herald Mercury,
New lighted on a heaven-kissing hill"; †
And some such visions cross'd her Majesty
While her young herald knelt before her still.
'Tis very true the hill seem'd rather high
For a lieutenant to climb up, but skill
Smooth'd even the Simplon's steep, and by
God's blessing, [kissing."
With youth and health, all kisses are "heaven-

LXVII.

Her Majesty look'd down, the youth look'd up—
And so they fell in love—she with his face,
His grace, his God-knows-what; for Cupid's cup
With the first draught intoxicates apace,
A quintessential laudanum, or "black drop,"
Which makes one drunk at once, without the base
Expedient of full bumpers; for the eye, [dry.
In love, drinks all life's fountains (save tears)

LXVIII.

He, on the other hand, if not in love,
Fell into that no less imperious passion,
Self-love—which, when some sort of thing above
Ourselves, a singer, dancer much in fashion,
Or duchess, princess, empress, "deigns to prove" [a rash one,
('Tis Pope's phrase) a great longing, though

* "His fortune swells him, it is rank, he's married."—Sir Giles Overreach, in Massinger's "New Way to Pay Old Debts." † Hamlet, Act iii., Sc. 1.

For one especial person out of many,
Makes us believe ourselves as good as any.

LXIX.

Besides, he was of that delighted age
Which makes all female ages equal—when
We don't much care with whom we may engage,
As bold as Daniel in the lions' den,
So that we can our native sun assuage
In the next ocean, which may flow just then,
To make a twilight in, just as Sol's heat is
Quench'd in the lap of the salt sea, or Thetis.

LXX.

And Catharine (we must say thus much for Catharine), [thing
Though bold and bloody, was the kind of
Whose temporary passion was quite flattering,
Because each lover look'd a sort of king,
Made up upon an amatory pattern,
A royal husband in all save the *ring*,—
Which, being the damn'dest part of matrimony,
Seem'd taking out the sting to leave the honey.

LXXI.

And when you add to this her womanhood
In its meridian, her blue eyes or grey—
(The last, if they have soul, are quite as good,
Or better, as the best examples say:
Napoleon's, Mary's (Queen of Scotland), should
Lend to that color a transcendent ray;
And Pallas also sanctions the same hue,
Too wise to look through optics black or blue)—

LXXII.

Her sweet smile, and her then majestic figure,
Her plumpness, her imperial condescension,
Her preference of a boy to men much bigger
(Fellows whom Messalina's self would pension),
Her prime of life, just now in juicy vigor,
With other *extras*, which we need not mention;
All these, or any one of these, explain [tion—
Enough to make a stripling very vain.

LXXIII.

And that's enough, for love is vanity,
Selfish in its beginning as its end,
Except where 'tis a mere insanity, [blend
A maddening spirit which would strife to
Itself with beauty's frail inanity, [pend;
On which the passion's self seems to de-
And hence some heathenish philosophers
Make love the main-spring of the universe.

LXXIV.

Besides Platonic love, besides the love
Of God, the love of sentiment, the loving
Of faithful pairs (I needs must rhyme with dove, [moving
That good old steamboat which keeps verses
'Gainst reason—reason ne'er was hand-and-glove [proving
With rhyme, but always leant less to im-

The sound than sense); besides all these pretences [name senses—
To love, there are those things which words

LXXV.

Those movements, those improvements in our bodies,
Which make all bodies anxious to get out
Of their own sand-pits, to mix with a goddess,
For such all women are at first, no doubt.
How beautiful that moment! and how odd is
That fever which precedes the languid rout
Of our sensations! What a curious way
The whole thing is, of clothing souls in clay!

LXXVI.

The noblest kind of love is love Platonical,
To end or to begin with; the next grand
Is that which may be christened love canonical
Because the clergy take the thing in hand;
The third sort, to be noted in our chronicle,
As flourishing in every Christian land,
Is, when chaste matrons to their other ties
Add what may be call'd *marriage in disguise.*

LXXVII.

Well, we won't analyse—our story must
Tell for itself: the sovereign was smitten,
Juan much flatter'd by her love, or lust—
I cannot stop to alter words once written;
And the two are so mixed with human dust,
That he who *names one*, both perchance may hit on:
But in such matters Russia's mighty Empress
Behaved no better than a common sempstress.

LXXVIII.

The whole court melted into one wide whisper,
And all lips were applied unto all ears;
The elder ladies' wrinkles curled much crisper,
As they beheld; the youngest cast some leers
On one another, and each lovely lisper
Smiled as she talk'd the matter o'er; but
Of rivalship rose in each clouded eye [tears
Of all the standing army that stood by.

LXXIX.

All the ambassadors of all the powers
Inquired who was this very new young man,
Who promised to be great in some few hours?
Which is full soon (though life is but a span).
Already they beheld the silver showers
Of roubles rain, as fast as specie can,
Upon his cabinet, besides the presents [sants.*
Of several ribands, and some thousand pea-

LXXX.

Catharine was generous—all such ladies are;
Love, that great opener of the heart, and all

* A Russian estate was always valued by the number of slaves upon it.

The ways that lead there, be they near or far,
Above, below, by turnpikes great or small—
Love—(though she had a cursed taste for war,
And was not the best wife, unless we call
Such Clytemnestra, though perhaps 'tis better
That one should die, than two drag on the fetter)—

LXXXI.

Love had made Catharine make each lover's fortune,
Unlike our own half-chaste Elizabeth,
Whose avarice all disbursements did importune;
If history, the grand liar, ever saith [tune,
The truth; and though grief her old age might shorten,
Because she put a favorite to death,
Her vile, ambiguous method of flirtation,
And stinginess, disgrace her sex and station.

LXXXII.

But when the levée rose, and all was bustle
In the dissolving circle, all the nations'
Ambassadors began as 'twere to hustle
Round the young man with their congratulations.
Also the softer silks were heard to rustle
Of gentle dames, among whose recreations
It is to speculate on handsome faces,
Especially when such lead to high places.

LXXXIII.

Juan, who found himself, he knew not how,
A general object of attention, made
His answers with a very graceful bow,
As if born for the ministerial trade.
Though modest, on his unembarrass'd brow
Nature had written "gentleman." He said
Little, but to the purpose; and his manner
Flung hovering graces o'er him like a banner.

LXXXIV.

An order from her Majesty consign'd
Our young lieutenant to the genial care
Of those in office: all the world look'd kind
(As it will look sometimes with the first stare,
Which youth would not act ill to keep in mind),
As also did Miss Protosoff then there,
Named, from her mystic office, "l'Éprouveuse,"
A term inexplicable to the Muse. [veuse,"

LXXXV.

With *her* then, as in humble duty bound,
Juan retired—and so will I, until
My Pegasus shall tire of touching ground.
We have just lit on a "heaven-kissing hill,"
So lofty that I feel my brain turn round,
And all my fancies whirling like a mill:
Which is a signal to my nerves and brain,
To take a quiet ride in some green lane.

CANTO THE TENTH.

1823.

I.

When Newton saw an apple fall, he found,
In that slight startle from his contemplation—
'Tis *said* (for I'll not answer above ground
For any sage's creed or calculation)—
A mode of proving that the earth turn'd round
In a most natural whirl, call'd "gravitation";
And this is the sole mortal who could grapple,
Since Adam, with a fall, or with an apple.

II.

Man fell with apples, and with apples rose,
If this be true; for we must deem the mode
In which Sir Isaac Newton could disclose
Through the then unpaved stars the turnpike road,
A thing to counterbalance human woes:
For, ever since, immortal man hath glow'd
With all kinds of mechanics, and full soon
Steam engines will conduct him to the moon.

III.

And wherefore this exordium?—Why, just
In taking up this paltry sheet of paper, [now,
My bosom underwent a glorious glow,
And my internal spirit cut a caper:
And though so much inferior, as I know,
To those who, by the dint of glass and vapor,
Discover stars, and sail in the wind's eye,
I wish to do as much by poesy.

IV.

In the wind's eye I've sail'd, and sail; but for
The stars, I own my telescope is dim; [shore,
But at the least I've shunn'd the common
And, leaving land far out of sight, would
The ocean of eternity: the roar [skim
Of breakers has not daunted my slight, trim,
But *still* sea-worthy skiff; and she may float
Where ships have founder'd, as doth many a boat.

V.

We left our hero, Juan, in the *bloom*
Of favoritism, but not yet in the *blush:*—
And far be it from my *Muses* to presume
(For I have more than one Muse, at a push)
To follow him beyond the drawing-room;
It is enough that Fortune found him flush
Of youth and vigor, beauty and those things
Which for an instant clip enjoyment's wings.

VI.

But soon they grow again, and leave their nest.
"Oh!" saith the Psalmist, "that I had a dove's
Pinions to flee away, and be at rest!"
And who that recollects young years and loves— [breast
Though hoary now, and with a withering
And palsied fancy, which no longer roves
Beyond its dimm'd eye's sphere—but would much rather [father?
Sigh like a son, than cough like his grand-

VII.

But sighs subside, and tears (even widows') shrink,
Like Arno in the summer, to a shallow,
So narrow as to shame their wintry brink,
Which threatens inundations deep and yellow! [think
Such difference do a few months make. You'd
Grief a rich field that never would lie fallow: [boys,
No more it doth; its ploughs but change their
Who furrow some new soil to sow for joys.

VIII.

But coughs will come when sighs depart, and now
And then before sighs cease; for oft the one
Will bring the other, ere the lake-like brow
Is ruffled by a wrinkle, or the sun
Of life reach'd ten o'clock: and while a glow,
Hectic and brief as summer's day nigh done,
O'erspreads the cheek which seems too pure for clay, [they!
Thousands blaze, love, hope, die—how happy

IX.

But Juan was not meant to die so soon.
We left him in the focus of such glory
As may be won by favor of the moon:
Or ladies' fancies—rather transitory, [June,
Perhaps; but who would scorn the month of
Because December, with his breath so hoary,
Must come? Much rather should he court the
To hoard up warmth against a wintry day. [ray,

X.

Besides, he had some qualities which fix
Middle-aged ladies even more than young:
The former know what's what; while new-fledged chicks
Know little more of love than what is sung
In rhymes, or dreamt (for fancy will play tricks) [sprung.
In visions of those skies from whence Love
Some reckon women by their suns or years:
I rather think the moon should date the dears.

XI.

And why? Because she's changeable and
I know no other reason, whatsoe'er [chaste.
Suspicious people, who find fault in haste,
May choose to tax me with; which is not fair,
Nor flattering to "their temper or their taste,"
As my friend Jeffrey writes with such an air:
However, I forgive him, and I trust
He will forgive himself:—if not, I must.

XII.

Old enemies who have become new friends,
Should so continue—'tis a point of honor:

And I know nothing which could make amends
For a return to hatred: I would shun her
Like garlic, howsoever she extends [her.
Her hundred arms and legs, and fain outrun
Old flames, new wives, become our bitterest foes—
Converted foes should scorn to join with those.

XIII.

This were the worst desertion:—renegadoes,
Even shuffling Southey, that incarnate lie,
Would scarcely join again the "reformadoes,"*
Whom he forsook to fill the laureate's sty;
And honest men, from Iceland to Barbadoes,
Whether in Caledon or Italy, [seize
Should not veer round with every breath, nor
To pain, the moment when you cease to please.

XIV.

The lawyer and the critic but behold
The baser sides of literature and life,
And nought remains unseen, but much untold,
By those who scour those double vales of strife.
While common men grow ignorantly old,
The lawyer's brief is like the surgeon's knife,
Dissecting the whole inside of a question,
And with it all the process of digestion.

XV.

A legal broom's a moral chimney-sweeper,
And that's the reason he himself's so dirty:
The endless soot† bestows a tint far deeper
Than can be hid by altering his shirt: he
Retains the sable stains of the dark creeper,
At least some twenty-nine do out of thirty,
In all their habits—not so *you*, I own:
As Cæsar wore his robe, you wear your gown.

XVI.

And all our little feuds, at least all *mine*,
Dear Jeffrey, once my most redoubted foe
(As far as rhyme and criticism combine
To make such puppets of us things below),
Are over: Here's a health to "Auld Lang Syne!"
I do not know you, and may never know
Your face—but you have acted, on the whole,
Most nobly; and I own it from my soul.

XVII.

And when I use the phrase of "Auld Lang Syne," [pity
'Tis not address'd to you—the more's the
For me, for I would rather take my wine
With you, than aught (save Scott) in your proud city. [whine,
But somehow—it may seem a schoolboy's
And yet I seek not to be grand or witty,
But I am half a Scot by birth, and bred
A whole one, and my heart flies to my head—

* "Reformers," or rather "Reformed." The Baron Bradwardine in "Waverley" is authority for the word.

† Query: suit?—"Printer's Devil."

XVIII.

As "Auld Lang Syne" brings Scotland, one and all, [and clear streams,
Scotch plaids, Scotch snoods, the blue hills,
The Dee, the Don, Balgounie's brig's *black wall*,*
All my boy-feelings, all my gentler dreams
Of what I *then dreamt*, clothed in their own pall, [seems
Like Banquo's offspring—floating past me
My childhood in this childishness of mine:
I care not—'tis a glimpse of "Auld Lang Syne."

XIX.

And though, as you remember, in a fit [curly,
Of wrath and rhyme, when juvenile and
I rail'd at Scots, to show my wrath and wit,
Which must be own'd was sensitive and surly,
Yet 'tis in vain such sallies to permit,
They cannot quench young feelings fresh and early:
I "*scotch'd*, not kill'd," the Scotchman in my blood, [flood."
And love the land of "mountain and of

XX.

Don Juan, who was real, or ideal— [think
For both are much the same, since what men
Exists when the once thinkers are less real
Than what they thought, for mind can never sink,
And 'gainst the body makes a strong appeal,
And yet 'tis very puzzling on the brink
Of what is call'd eternity, to stare, [there;—
And know no more of what is here, than

XXI.

Don Juan grew a very polish'd Russian—
How we won't mention, *why* we need not say: [cussion
Few youthful minds can stand the strong con-
Of any slight temptation in their way;
But *his* just now were spread as is a cushion
Smooth'd for a monarch's seat of honor; gay
Damsels, and dances, revels, ready money,
Made ice seem paradise, and winter sunny.

XXII.

The favor of the Empress was agreeable;
And though the duty wax'd a little hard,
Young people of his time of life should be able
To come off handsomely in that regard.
He was now growing up like a green tree, able
For love, war, or ambition, which reward
Their luckier votaries, till old age's tedium
Make some prefer the circulating medium.

* The Brig of Don, near the "Auld Toun" of Aberdeen, with its one arch and its black deep salmon stream below, is in my memory as yesterday. I still remember, though perhaps I may misquote, the awful proverb which made me pause to cross it and yet lean over it with a childish delight, being an only son, at least by the mother's side. The saying, as recollected by me, was this, but I have never heard or seen it since I was nine years of age;

"Brig of Balgounie, black's your wall,
Wi' a wife's ae sor, and a mear's ae foal
Doun ye shall fa'!"

XXIII.

About this time, as might have been anticipated,
Seduced by youth, and dangerous examples,
Don Juan grew, I fear, a little dissipated;
Which is a sad thing, and not only tramples
On our fresh feelings, but—as being participated
With all kinds of incorrigible samples
Of frail humanity—must make us selfish,
And shut our souls up in us, like a shellfish.

XXIV.

This we pass over. We will also pass
The usual progress of intrigues between
Unequal matches, such as are, alas!
A young lieutenant's with a *not old* queen,
But one who is not so youthful as she was
In all the royalty of sweet seventeen.
Sovereigns may sway materials, but not matter; [ter.
And wrinkles, the d—d democrats, won't flat-

XXV.

And death, the sovereign's sovereign, though the great
Gracchus of all mortality, who levels,
With his *Agrarian** laws, the high estate
Of him who feasts, and fights, and roars, and revels, [await
To one small grass-grown patch (which must
Corruption for its crop), with the poor devils
Who never had a foot of land till now—
Death's a reformer, all men must allow.

XXVI.

He lived (not Death, but Juan) in a hurry
Of waste, and haste, and glare, and gloss, and glitter, [furry—
In this gay clime of bearskins, black and
Which (though I hate to say a thing that's bitter) [flurry,
Peep out sometimes, when things are in a
Through all the "purple and fine linen," fitter
For Babylon's than Russia's royal harlot—
And neutralize her outward show of scarlet.

XXVII.

And this same state we won't describe: we could
Perhaps from hearsay, or from recollection;
But, getting nigh grim Dante's "obscure wood," †
That horrid equinox, that hateful section
Of human years, that half-way house, that rude
Hut, whence wise travelers drive with circumspection
Life's sad post-horses o'er the dreary frontier
Of age, and, looking back to youth, give *one* tear;—

XXVIII.

I won't describe—that is, if I can help
Description; and I won't reflect—that is,
If I can stave off thought, which, as a whelp
Clings to its teat, sticks to me through the
Of this old labyrinth; or as the kelp [abyss
Holds by the rock; or as a lover's kiss
Drains its first draught of lips:—but, as I said,
I *won't* philosophize, and *will* be read.

XXIX.

Juan, instead of courting courts, was courted—
A thing which happens rarely. This he owed
Much to his youth, and much to his reported
Valor; much also to the blood he show'd,
Like a race-horse; much to each dress he sported,
Which set the beauty off in which he glow'd,
As purple clouds befringe the sun: but most
He owed to an old woman and his post.

XXX.

He wrote to Spain:—and all his near relations,
Perceiving he was in a handsome way
Of getting on himself, and finding stations
For cousins also, answer'd the same day.
Several prepared themselves for emigrations,
And, eating ices, were overheard to say
That, with the addition of a slight pelisse,
Madrid and Moscow's climes were of a piece.

XXXI.

His mother, Donna Inez, finding, too,
That, in the lieu of drawing on his banker,
Where his assets were waxing rather few,
He had brought his spending to a handsome anchor,—
Replied "that she was glad to see him through
Those pleasures after which wild youth will hanker:
As the sole sign of man being in his senses
Is, learning to reduce his past expenses.

XXXII.

"She also recommended him to God,
And no less to God's Son, as well as Mother;
Warn'd him against Greek worship, which looks odd [smother
In Catholic eyes, but told him, too, to
Outward dislike, which don't look well abroad:
Inform'd him that he had a little brother
Born in a second wedlock; and, above
All, praised the Empress's *maternal* love.

XXXIII.

"She could not too much give her approbation
Unto an Empress who preferr'd young men,
Whose age, and what was better still, whose nation [then):—
And climate, stopp'd all scandal (now and
At home it might have given her some vexation:
But where thermometers sink down to ten,
Or five, or one, or zero, she could never
Believe that virtue thaw'd before the river,"

* Tiberius Gracchus, being tribune of the people, demanded in their name the execution of the Agrarian laws: by which all persons possessing more than a certain number of acres were to be deprived of the surplus for the benefit of the poor citizens.

† Mi ritrovai per una selva oscura.
—"Inferno," Canto I.

XXXIV.

Oh for a *forty-parson power* * to chant
Thy praise, Hypocrisy! Oh for a hymn
Loud as the virtues thou dost loudly vaunt,
Not practice! Oh for trump of cherubim!
Or the ear-trumpet of my good old aunt,
Who, though her spectacles at last grew dim,
Drew quiet consolation through its hint,
When she could no more read the pious print.

XXXV.

She was no hypocrite, at least, poor soul!
But went to heaven in as sincere a way
As anybody on the elected roll, [day,
Which portions out, upon the judgment-
Heaven's freeholds, in a sort of doomsday scroll,
Such as the conqueror William did repay
His knights with; lotting others' properties
Into some sixty thousand new knights' fees.

XXXVI.

I can't complain, whose ancestors are there,
Erneis, Radulphus—eight and forty manors
(If that my memory doth not greatly err)
Were their reward for following Billy's banners; [fair
And though I can't help thinking 'twas scarce
To strip the Saxons of their *hydes* † like tanners; [duce,
Yet, as they founded churches with the pro-
You'll deem, no doubt, they put it to a good use.

XXXVII.

The gentle Juan flourish'd, though at times
He felt like other plants call'd sensitive,
Which shrink from touch as monarchs do from rhymes,
Save such as Southey can afford to give.
Perhaps he long'd, in bitter frosts, for climes
In which the Neva's ice would cease to live
Before Mid-day: perhaps, despite his duty,
In royalty's vast arms he sigh'd for beauty.

XXXVIII.

Perhaps—but *sans* perhaps, we need not seek
For causes young or old; the canker-worm
Will feed upon the fairest, freshest cheek,
As well as further drain the wither'd form:
Care, like a housekeeper, brings every week
His bills in, and, however we may storm,
They must be paid: though six days smoothly run,
The seventh will bring blue devils or a dun.

XXXIX.

I don't know how it was, but he grew sick;
The Empress was alarm'd; and her physician
(The same who physick'd Peter) found the tick
Of his fierce pulse betoken a condition
Which augured of the dead, however *quick*
Itself, and show'd a feverish disposition;
At which the whole court was extremely troubled, [doubled.]
The sovereign shock'd and all his medicines

XL.

Low were the whispers, manifold the rumors:
Some said he had been poison'd by Potemkin:
Others talk'd learnedly of certain tumors,
Exhaustion, or disorders of the same kin:
Some said 'twas a concoction of the humors
Which with the blood too readily will claim
Others, again, were ready to maintain [kin:
"'Twas only the fatigue of last campaign."

XLI.

But here is one prescription, out of many:
"Sodæ sulphat. ℥vj., ℥ss. Mannæ optim.
Aq. fervent. f. ℥iss. ℥ij. tinct. Sennæ
Haustus" (and here the surgeon came and cupp'd him),
"R. Pulv. Com. gr. iij. Ipecacuanhæ"
(With more besides, if Juan had not stopp'd
"Bolus Potassæ Sulphuret, sumendus, [em,)
Et haustus ter in die capiendus."

XLII.

This is the way physicians mend or end us,
Secundum artem; but although we sneer
In health, when ill we call them to attend us,
Without the least propensity to jeer:
While that *hiatus maxime deflendus,*
To be fill'd up by spade or mattock, 's near,
Instead of gliding graciously down Lethe,
We tease mild Baillie or soft Abernethy.*

XLIII.

Juan demurr'd at this first notice to [ejection,
Quit; and though death had threaten'd an
His youth and constitution bore him through,
And sent the doctors in a new direction.
But still his state was delicate: the hue
Of health but flicker'd with a faint reflection
Along his wasted cheek, and seem'd to gravel
The faculty, who said that he must travel.

XLIV.

The climate was too cold, they said, for him,
Meridian-born, to bloom in. This opinion
Made the chaste Catharine look a little grim,
Who did not like at first to lose her minion:
But when she saw his dazzling eye wax dim,
And drooping like an eagle's with clipt pinion,
She then resolved to send him on a mission,
But in a style becoming his condition.

XLV.

There was just then a kind of a discussion,
A sort of treaty or negotiation,
Between the British Cabinet and Russian,
Maintain'd with all the due prevarication

* A metaphor taken from the "forty-horse power" of a steam-engine. That mad wag, the Rev. S. S., sitting by a brother clergyman at dinner, observed afterwards that his dull neighbor had a "twelve-parson power" of conversation.

† "Hyde." I believe a hyde of land to be a legitimate word, and, as such, subject to the tax of a quibble.

* [Both remarkable for rough plainness of speech.]

With which great states such things are apt
to push on:
Something about the Baltic's navigation,
Hides, train-oil, tallow, and the rights of
Thetis,
Which Britons deem their *uti possidetis.*

XLVI.

So Catharine, who had a handsome way
Of fitting out her favorites, conferr'd
This secret charge on Juan, to display
At once her royal splendor, and reward
His services. He kiss'd hands the next day,
Received instructions how to play his card,
Was laden with all kinds of gifts and honors,
Which show'd what great discernment was
the donor's.

XLVII.

But she was lucky, and luck's all. Your queens
Are generally prosperous in reigning;
Which puzzles us to know what Fortune
means. [waning,
But to continue: though her years were
Her climacteric teased her like her teens:
And though her dignity brook'd no com-
plaining,
So much did Juan's setting off distress her,
She could not find at first a fit successor.

XLVIII.

But time, the comforter, will come at last:
And four-and-twenty hours, and twice that
number
Of candidates, requesting to be placed,
Made Catharine taste, next night, a quiet
slumber:—
Not that she meant to fix again in haste,
Nor did she find the quantity encumber,
But always choosing with deliberation,
Kept the place open for their emulation.

XLIX.

While this high post of honor's in abeyance,
For one or two days, reader, we request
You'll mount, with our young hero, the con-
veyance [best
Which wafted him from Petersburg: the
Baronche, which had the glory to display once
The fair Czarina's autocratic crest,
When, a new Iphigene, she went to Tauris,*
Was given to her favorite, and now *bore his.*

L.

A bull-dog, and a bullfinch, and an ermine,
All private favorites of Don Juan: for
(Let deeper sages the true cause determine)
He had a kind of inclination, or [vermin,
Weakness, for what most people deem mere
Live animals: an old maid of threescore
For cats and birds more penchant ne'er dis-
play'd,
Although he was not old, nor even a maid.

* The Empress went to the Crimea, accompanied by the Emperor Joseph, in the year—I forget which. [1787.]

LI.

The animals aforesaid occupied
Their station; there were valets, secretaries,
In other vehicles; but at his side
Sat little Leila, who survived the parries
He made 'gainst Cossacque sabres, in the
wide [varies
Slaughter of Ismail. Though my wild muse
Her note, she don't forget the infant girl
Whom he preserved a pure and living pearl.

LII.

Poor little thing! She was as fair as docile;
And with that gentle, serious character,
As rare in living beings as a fossile [Cuvier!"
Man, 'midst thy mouldy mammoths, "grand
Ill fitted was her ignorance to jostle [must err.
With this o'erwhelming world, where all
But she was yet but ten years old, and there-
fore [wherefore.
Was tranquil, though she knew not why or

LIII.

Don Juan loved her, and she loved him, as
Nor brother, father, sister, daughter, love.
I cannot tell exactly what it was:
He was not yet quite old enough to prove
Parental feelings; and the other class,
Call'd brotherly affection, could not move
His bosom, for he never had a sister: [her!
Ah! if he had, how much he would have miss'd

LIV.

And still less was it sensual; for, besides
That he was not an ancient debauchee
(Who like sour fruit, to stir their veins' salt
As acids rouse a dormant alkali), [tides,
Although (*twill* happen as our planet guides)
His youth was not the chastest that might
There was the purest Platonism at bottom [be,
Of all his feelings—only he forgot 'em.

LV.

Just now there was no peril of temptation:
He loved the infant orphan he had saved,
As patriots (now and then) may love a nation:
His pride, too, felt that she was not enslaved,
Owing to him:—as also her salvation,
Through his means and the church's, might
be paved: [serted,
But one thing's odd, which here must be in-
The little Turk refused to be converted.

LVI.

'Twas strange enough she should retain the
impression, [and slaughter;
Through such a scene of change, and dread,
But though three bishops told her the trans-
gression,
She show'd a great dislike to holy water:
She also had no passion for confession:
Perhaps she had nothing to confess:—no
matter [it—
Whate'er the cause, the church made little of
She still held out that Mahomet was a prophet.

LVII.

In fact, the only Christian she could bear
Was Juan, whom she seem'd to have selected
In place of what her home and friends once were.
He *naturally* loved what he protected;
And thus they form'd a rather curious pair:
A guardian green in years, a ward connected
In neither clime, time, blood, with her defender; [tender.
And yet this want of ties made theirs more

LVIII.

They journey'd on through Poland and through Warsaw,
Famous for mines of salt and yokes of iron:
Through Courland also, which that famous farce saw [of "Biron."*
Which gave her dukes the graceless name
'Tis the same landscape which the modern Mars saw [siren!
Who march'd to Moscow, led by Fame, the
To lose by one month's frost, some twenty years
Of conquest, and his guard of grenadiers.

LIX.

Let this not seem an anti-climax:—"Oh!
My Guard! my old Guard!" exclaim'd the god of clay.
Think of the thunderer's falling down below
Carotid-artery-cutting Castlereagh!
Alas, that glory should be chill'd by snow!
But should we wish to warm us on our way
Through Poland, there is Kosciusko's name
Might scatter fire through ice, like Hecla's flame.

LX.

From Poland they came on through Prussia Proper,
And Königsberg, the capital, whose vaunt,
Besides some veins of iron, lead, or copper,
Has lately been the great Professor Kant.
Juan, who cared not a tobacco-stopper
About philosophy, pursued his jaunt
To Germany, whose somewhat tardy millions
Have princes who spur more than their postilions.

LXI.

And thence through Berlin, Dresden, and the
Until he reach'd the castellated Rhine. [like,
Ye glorious Gothic scenes! how much ye strike
All phantasies, not even excepting mine:
A gray wall, a green ruin, rusty pike,
Make my soul pass the equinoctial line
Between the present and past worlds, and
Upon their airy confines, half-seas over. [hover

* In the Empress Ann's time, Biren, her favorite, assumed the name and arms of the "Birons" of France, which families are yet extant with that of England. There are still the daughters of Courland of that name: one of them I remember seeing in England, in the blessed year of the Allies—the Duchess of S——, to whom the English Duchess of Somerset presented me as a namesake.

LXII.

But Juan posted on through Mannheim, Bonn,
Which Drachenfels frowns over like a
Of the good feudal times forever gone, [spectre
On which I have not time just now to lecture. [logne,
From thence he was drawn onwards to Co-
A city which presents to the inspector
Eleven thousand maidenheads of bone,*
The greatest number flesh hath ever known.

LXIII.

From thence to Holland's Hague and Helvoetsluys, [ditches,
That water-land of Dutchmen and of
Where juniper expresses its best juice, [riches.
The poor man's sparkling substitute for
Senates and sages have condemn'd its use,—
But to deny the mob a cordial, which is
Too often all the clothing, meat, or fuel [cruel.
Good government has left them, seems but

LXIV.

Here he embark'd; and, with a flowing sail,
Went bounding for the island of the free,
Towards which the impatient wind blew half a gale. [the sea,
High dash'd the spray, the bows dipp'd in
And sea-sick passengers turn'd somewhat pale;
But Juan, season'd, as he well might be,
By former voyages, stood to watch the skiffs
Which pass'd, or catch the first glimpse of the cliffs.

LXV.

At length they rose, like a white wall, along
The blue sea's border; and Don Juan felt—
What even young strangers feel a little strong
At the first sight of Albion's chalky belt—
A kind of pride that he should be among
Those haughty shopkeepers, who sternly dealt
Their goods and edicts out from pole to pole,
And made the very billows pay them toll.

LXVI.

I've no great cause to love that spot of earth,
Which holds what *might have been* the noblest nation:
But though I owe it little but my birth,
I feel a mix'd regret and veneration
For its decaying fame and former worth, [tion)
Seven years (the usual term of transporta-
Of absence lay one's old resentments level,
When a man's country's going to the devil.

LXVII.

Alas! could she but fully, truly know
How her great name is now throughout ab-
How eager all the earth is for the blow [horr'd;
Which shall lay bare her bosom to the sword;
How all the nations deem her their worst foe,

* St. Ursula and her eleven thousand virgins were still extant in 1816, and may be so yet as much as ever.

That worse than *worst of foes*, the once adored [kind,
False friend, who held out freedom to man-
And now would chain them, to the very mind;—

LXVIII.

Would she be proud, or boast herself the free,
Who is but first of slaves? The nations are
In prison—but the jailor, what is he?
No less a victim to the bolt and bar.
Is the poor privilege to turn the key
Upon the captive, freedom? He's as far
From the enjoyment of the earth and air,
Who watches o'er the chain, as they who wear.

LXIX.

Don Juan now saw Albion's earliest beauties,
Thy cliffs, *dear* Dover, harbor, and hotel;
Thy custom-house, with all its delicate duties;
Thy waiters running mucks at every bell;
Thy packets, all whose passengers are booties
To those who upon land or water dwell;
And last, not least, to strangers not instructed,
Thy long, long bills, whence nothing is deducted.

LXX.

Juan, though careless, young, and magnifique,
And rich in rubies, diamonds, cash, and credit,
Who did not limit much his bills per week,
Yet stared at this a little, though he paid it—
(His Maggior Duomo, a smart, subtle Greek,
Before him summ'd the awful scroll and read it); [sunny,
But, doubtless, as the air, though seldom
Is free, the respiration's worth the money.

LXXI.

On with the horses! Off to Canterbury!
Tramp, tramp o'er pebble, and splash, splash through puddle:
Hurrah! how swiftly speeds the post so merry!
Not like slow Germany, wherein they muddle
Along the road, as if they went to bury
Their fare; and also pause, besides, to fuddle
With "schnapps"—sad dogs, whom "Hundsfot" or "Verfluchter"
Affect no more than lightning a conductor.

LXXII.

Now there is nothing gives a man such spirits,
Leavening his blood as cayenne doth a curry,
As going at full speed: no matter where its
Direction be, so 'tis but in a hurry,
And merely for the sake of its own merits:
For the less cause there is for all this flurry,
The greater is the pleasure in arriving
At the great *end* of travel—which is driving.

LXXIII.

They saw at Canterbury the cathedral: [stone,
Black Edward's helm, and Becket's bloody
Were pointed out as usual by the bedral,
In the same quaint, uninterested tone:—
There's glory again for you, gentle reader! All
Ends in a rusty casque and dubious bone,
Half-solved into these sodas or magnesias,
Which form that bitter draught, the human species.

LXXIV.

The effect on Juan was, of course, sublime;
He breathed a thousand Cressys, as he saw
That casque which never stopp'd except to Time. [awe,
Even the bold Churchman's tomb excited
Who died in the then great attempt to climb
O'er kings, who *now* at least *must talk* of law
Before they butcher. Little Leila gazed,
And ask'd why such a structure had been raised.

LXXV.

And being told it was "God's house," she said
He was well lodged, but only wonder'd how
He suffer'd Infidels in his homestead,
The cruel Nazarenes, who had laid low
His holy temples in the lands which bred
The true Believers, and her infant brow
Was bent with grief that Mahomet should resign
A mosque so noble, flung like pearls to swine.

LXXVI.

On! on! through meadows, managed like a garden,
A paradise of hops and high production;
For, after years of travel, by a bard, in
Countries of greater heat, but lesser suction,
A green field is a sight which makes him pardon [tion,
The absence of that more sublime construc-
Which mixes up vines, olives, precipices,
Glaciers, volcanoes, oranges, and ices.

LXXVII.

And when I think upon a pot of beer——
But I won't weep!—and so drive on, postilions!
As the smart boys spurr'd fast in their career,
Juan admired these highways of free mil-
A country in all senses the most dear [lions,
To foreigner or native, save some silly ones,
Who "kick against the pricks" just at this juncture,
And for their pains get only a fresh puncture.

LXXVIII.

What a delightful thing's a turnpike road!
So smooth, so level, such a mode of shaving
The earth, as scarce the eagle in the broad
Air can accomplish, with his wide wings waving;
Had such been cut in Phaeton's time, the god
Had told his son to satisfy his craving
With the York mail. But, onward as we roll,
"*Surgit amari aliquid*"—the toll!

LXXIX.

Alas, how deeply painful is all payment!
Take lives, take wives, take aught except men's purses,
As Machiavel shows those in purple raiment,

Such is the shortest way to general curses.
They hate a murderer much less than a claimant
On that sweet ore which everybody nurses.—
Kill a man's family, and he may brook it,
But keep your hands out of his breeches pocket.

LXXX.

So said the Florentine; ye monarchs, hearken
To your instructor. Juan now was borne,
Just as the day began to wane and darken,
O'er the high hill which looks, with pride or scorn,
Towards the great city.—Ye who have a spark [in
Your veins of Cockney spirit, smile or mourn,
According as you take things well or ill:—
Bold Britons, we are now on Shooter's Hill!

LXXXI.

The sun went down, the smoke rose up, as from
A half-unquench'd volcano, o'er a space
Which well beseem'd the "Devil's drawing-room,"
As some have qualified that wondrous place;
But Juan felt, though not approaching *home*,
As one who, though he were not of the race,
Revered the soil, of those true sons the mother,
Who butcher'd half the earth,* and bullied t'other.†

LXXXII.

A mighty mass of brick, and smoke, and shipping,
Dirty and dusky, but as wide as eye
Could reach, with here and there a sail just skipping
In sight, then lost amidst the forestry
Of masts; a wilderness of steeples peeping
On tip-toe through their sea-coal canopy;
A huge, dun cupola, like a foolscap crown
On a fool's head—and there is London Town!

LXXXIII.

But Juan saw not this: each wreath of smoke
Appear'd to him but as the magic vapor
Of some alchymic furnace, from whence broke
The wealth of worlds (a wealth of tax and paper);
The gloomy clouds, which o'er it as a yoke
Are bow'd, and put the sun out like a taper,
Were nothing but the natural atmosphere,
Extremely wholesome, though but rarely clear.

LXXXIV.

He paused—and so will I; as doth a crew
Before they give their broadside. By and by,
My gentle countrymen, we will renew
Our old acquaintance; and at least I'll try
To tell you truths *you* will not take as true,
Because they are so—A male Mrs. Fry,
With a soft besom will I sweep your halls,
And brush a web or two from off the walls.

LXXXV.

Oh, Mrs. Fry! Why go to Newgate? Why
Preach to poor rogues? And wherefore not begin
With Carlton, or with other houses? Try
Your hand at harden'd and imperial sin.
To mend the people's an absurdity,
A jargon, a mere philanthropic din,
Unless you make their betters better;—Fie!
I thought you had more religion, Mrs. Fry.

LXXXVI.

Teach them the decencies of good threescore:
Cure them of tours, hussar and highland dresses;
Tell them that youth once gone returns no more;
That hired huzzas redeem no land's dis-
Tell them Sir William Curtis is a bore, [tresses;
Too dull even for the dullest of excesses,
The witless Falstaff of a hoary Hal,
A fool whose bells have ceased to ring at all.

LXXXVII.

Tell them, though it may be perhaps too late
On life's worn confine, jaded, bloated, sated,
To set up vain pretences of being great,
'Tis not so to be good; and be it stated,
The worthiest kings have ever loved least state;
And tell them——But you won't, and I have prated
Just now enough: but by-and-by I'll prattle,
Like Roland's horn in Roncesvalles' battle.

* India. † America.

CANTO THE ELEVENTH.

1823.

I.

When Bishop Berkeley said "there was no matter," [said:
And proved it—'twas no matter what he
They say his system 'tis in vain to batter,
Too subtle for the airiest human head;
And yet who can believe it? I would shatter
Gladly all matters down to stone or lead,
Or adamant, to find the world a spirit,
And wear my head, denying that I wear it.

II.

What a sublime discovery 'twas to make the
Universe universal egotism,
That all's ideal—*all ourselves;* I'll stake the
World (be it what you will) that *that's* no schism. [some take thee,
Oh, Doubt!—if thou be'st Doubt, for which
But which I doubt extremely—thou sole prism [spirit,
Of the Truth's rays, spoil not my draught of

Heaven's brandy, though our brain can hardly bear it.

III.

For ever and anon comes Indigestion
(Not the most "dainty Ariel") and perplexes
Our soarings with another sort of question;
And that which, after all, my spirit vexes,
Is, that I find no spot where man can rest eye
Without confusion of the sorts and sexes[on,
Of beings, stars, and this unriddled wonder,
The world, which at the worst's a glorious blunder——

IV.

If it be chance; or if it be according
To the old text, still better:—Lest it should
Turn out so, we'll say nothing 'gainst the wording,
As several people think such hazards rude.
They're right: our days are too brief for affording
Space to dispute what *no one* ever could
Decide, and *everybody one day* will
Know very clearly—or at least lie still.

V.

And therefore will I leave off metaphysical
Discussion, which is neither here nor there:
If I agree that what is, is: then this I call
Being quite perspicuous and extremely fair.
The truth is, I've grown lately rather phthisical:
I don't know what the reason is—the air,
Perhaps; but, as I suffer from the shocks
Of illness, I grow much more orthodox.

VI.

The first attack at once proved the Divinity
(But *that* I never doubted, nor the Devil);
The next, the Virgin's mystical virginity;
The third, the usual Origin of Evil;
The fourth at once establish'd the whole
On so incontrovertible a level, [Trinity
That I devoutly wish'd the three were four,
On purpose to believe so much the more.

VII.

To our theme.—The man who has stood on the Acropolis,
And look'd down over Attica; or he
Who has sail'd where picturesque Constantinople is,
Or seen Timbuctoo, or hath taken tea [olis,
In small-eyed China's crockery-ware metrop-
Or sat amidst the bricks of Nineveh, [ance—
May not think much of London's first appear-
But ask him what he thinks of it a year hence.

VIII.

Don Juan had got out on Shooter's Hill:
Sunset the time, the place the same declivity
Which looks along that vale of good and ill
Where London streets ferment in full activity;
While everything around was calm and still,
Except the creak of wheels, which on their pivot he
Heard; and that bee-like, bubbling, busy hum
Of cities, that boil over with their scum:—

IX.

I say Don Juan, wrapt in contemplation, [mit;
Walk'd on behind his carriage, o'er the sum-
And lost in wonder of so great a nation, [it.
Gave way to it, since he could not o'ercome
"And here," he cried, "is Freedom's chosen station; [tomb it
Here peals the people's voice, nor can enRacks, prisons, inquisitions; resurrection
Awaits it, each new meeting or election.

X.

"Here are chaste wives, pure lives: here people pay
But what they please; and, if that things be
'Tis only that they love to throw away [dear,
Their cash to show how much they have a
Here laws are all inviolate; none lay [year.
Traps for the traveler; every highway's clear:
Here"—he was interrupted by a knife, [life!"
With—"Damn your eyes! your money or your

XI.

These freeborn sounds proceeded from four pads, [loiter
In ambush laid, who had perceived him
Behind his carriage; and, like handy lads,
Had seized the lucky hour to reconnoitre,
In which the heedless gentleman who gads
Upon the road, unless he proves a fighter,
May find himself, within that isle of riches,
Exposed to lose his life as well as breeches.

XII.

Juan, who did not understand a word[damn!"
Of English, save their shibboleth "God
And even that he had so rarely heard, [laam,"
He sometimes thought 'twas only their "Sa-
Or "God be with you!" and 'tis not absurd
To think so; for, half English as I am
(To my misfortune), never can I say [way.
I heard them wish "God with you," save that

XIII.

Juan yet quickly understood their gesture;
And, being somewhat choleric and sudden,
Drew forth a pocket pistol from his vesture,
And fired it into one assailant's pudding—
Who fell, as rolls an ox o'er in his pasture,
And roar'd out, as he writhed his native mud in,
Unto his nearest follower or henchman,
"O Jack! I'm floor'd by that 'ere bloody Frenchman!"

XIV.

On which Jack and his train set off at speed;
And Juan's suite, late scatter'd at a distance,
Came up, all marvelling at such a deed,
And offering, as usual, late assistance.
Juan, who saw the moon's late minion bleed

As if his veins would pour out his existence,
Stood calling out for bandages and lint,
And wish'd he'd been less hasty with his flint.

XV.

"Perhaps," thought he, "it is the country's wont
To welcome foreigners in this way: now
I recollect some innkeepers who don't
Differ, except in robbing with a bow
In lieu of a bare blade and brazen front.
But what is to be done? I can't allow
The fellow to lie groaning on the road:
So take him up; I'll help you with the load."

XVI.

But ere they could perform this pious duty,
The dying man cried, "Hold! I've got my gruel! [booty;
Oh for a glass of *max!** We've miss'd our
Let me die where I am!" And as the fuel
Of life shrunk in his heart, and thick and sooty
The drops fell from his death-wound, and he drew ill [tied
His breath—he from his swelling throat unA kerchief, crying, "Give Sal that!"—and died.

XVII.

The cravat, stain'd with bloody drops, fell down
Before Don Juan's feet: he could not tell
Exactly why it was before him thrown,
Nor what the meaning of the man's farewell.
Poor Tom was once a kiddy upon town,
A thorough varmint, and a *real* swell,
Full flash, all fancy, until fairly diddled,
His pockets first, and then his body riddled.

XVIII.

Don Juan, having done the best he could
In all the circumstances of the case,
As soon as "Crowner's quest" allow'd, pursued
His travels to the capital apace;—
Esteeming it a little hard he should
In twelve hours' time, and very little space,
Have been obliged to slay a free-born native
In self-defence: this made him meditative.

XIX.

He from the world had cut off a great man,
Who in his time had made a great bustle.
Who, in a row, like Tom could lead the van,
Booze in the ken,† or at the spellken hustle?‡
Who queer a flat? Who (spite of Bow Street's ban) [muzzle?
On the high toby-spice§ so flash the
Who, on a lark, with black-eyed Sal (his blowing),
So prime, so swell, so nutty, and so knowing?‖

XX.

But Tom's no more—and so no more of Tom.
Heroes must die; and, by God's blessing, 'tis
Not long before the most of them go home.
Hail! Thamis, hail! Upon thy verge it is
That Juan's chariot, rolling like a drum
In thunder, holds the way it can't well miss,
Through Kennington and all the other "tons,"
Which make us wish ourselves in town at once;—

XXI.

Through Groves, so call'd as being void of trees [pects named
(Like *lucus*, from *no* light); through pros-
Mount Pleasant, as containing nought to please, [framed
Nor much to climb; through little boxes
Of bricks, to let the dust in at your ease,
With "To be let" upon their doors proclaim'd: [dise,"
Through "Rows" most modestly call'd "Para-
Which Eve might quit without much sacrifice:—

XXII.

Through coaches, drays, choked turnpikes, and a whirl
Of wheels, and roar of voices, and confusion:
Here taverns wooing to a pint of "purl":
There mails fast flying off like a delusion:
There barbers' blocks with periwigs in curl
In windows: here the lamplighter's infusion
Slowly distill'd into the glimmering glass
(For in those days we had not got to gas);—

XXIII.

Through this, and much, and more, is the ap-
Of travelers to mighty Babylon: [proach
Whether they come by horse, or chaise, or coach, [one.
With slight exceptions all the ways seem
I could say more, but do not choose to encroach
Upon the Guide-book's privilege. The sun
Had set some time, and night was on the ridge
Of twilight, as the party cross'd the bridge.

XXIV.

That's rather fine, the gentle sound of Thamis—
Who vindicates a moment, too, his stream—

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* Gin. † [Ken, a house that harbors thieves.]
‡ [The theatre.] § [Robbery on horseback.]

‖ The advance of science and of language has rendered it unnecessary to translate the above good and true English, spoken in its original purity by the select mobility and their patrons. The following is a stanza of a song which was very popular, at least in my early days:

"On the high toby-spice flash the muzzle,
In spite of each gallows old scout:
If you at the spellken can't hustle,
You'll be hobbled in making a clout.

"Then your Blowing will wax gallows haughty,
When she hears of your scaly mistake,
She'll surely turn snitch for the forty,
That her Jack may be regular weight."

If there be any gem'man so ignorant as to require a translation, I refer him to my old friend and corporeal pastor and master, John Jackson, Esq., Professor of Pugilism: who, I trust, still retains the strength and symmetry of his model of a form, together with his good humor, and athletic as well as mental accomplishments.

Though hardly heard through multifarious
"damme's." [gleam,
The lamps of Westminster's more regular
The breadth of pavement, and yon shrine
where fame is
A spectral resident—whose pallid beam
In shape of moonshine hovers o'er the pile—
Make this a sacred part of Albion's Isle.

XXV.

The Druids' groves are gone—so much the
better:
Stonehenge is not—but what the devil is it?
But Bedlam still exists with its sage fetter,
That madmen may not bite you, on a visit.
The Bench, too, seats or suits full many a
debtor: [ple quiz it),
The Mansion House, too (though some peo-
To me appears a stiff yet grand erection: [tion.
But then the Abbey's worth the whole collec-

XXVI.

The line of lights, too, up to Charing Cross,
Pall Mall, and so forth, have a coruscation,
Like gold as in comparison to dross,
Match'd with the Continent's illumination,
Whose cities Night by no means deigns to
gloss. [nation:
The French were not yet a lamplighting
And when they grew so—on their new-found
lantern,
Instead of wicks, they made a wicked man turn.

XXVII.

A row of gentlemen along the streets
Suspended, may illuminate mankind,
As also bonfires made of country seats;
But the old way is best for the purblind:
The other looks like phosphorus on sheets,
A sort of *ignis fatuus* to the mind, [frighten,
Which, though 'tis certain to perplex and
Must burn more brightly ere it can enlighten.

XXVIII.

But London's so well lit, that if Diogenes
Could recommence to hunt his *honest man*,
And found him not amidst the various pro-
genies
Of this enormous city's spreading spawn,
'Twere not for want of lamps to aid his dodg-
ing his
Yet undiscover'd treasure. What *I* can,
I've done to find the same, throughout life's
journey,
But see the world is only one attorney.

XXIX.

Over the stones still rattling, up Pall Mall,
Through crowds, and carriages, but waxing
thinner, [spell
As thunder'd knockers broke the long-seal'd
Of doors 'gainst duns, and to an early din-
Admitted a small party, as night fell— [ner
Don Juan, our young diplomatic sinner,
Pursued his path, and drove past some hotels,
St. James's Palace, and St. James's "Hells."*

XXX.

They reach'd the hotel: forth stream'd from
the front door
A tide of well-clad waiters, and around
The mob stood, and, as usual, several score
Of those pedestrian Paphians who abound
In decent London, when the daylight's o'er;
Commodious but immoral, they are found
Useful, like Malthus, in promoting marriage—
But Juan now, in stepping from his carriage

XXXI.

Into one of the sweetest of hotels,
Especially by foreigners—and mostly
For those whom favor or whom fortune swells,
And cannot find a bill's small items costly.
There many an envoy either dwelt or dwells
(The den of many a diplomatic lost lie)
Until to some conspicuous square they pass,
And blazon o'er the door their names in brass.

XXXII.

Juan, whose was a delicate commission,
Private, though publicly important, bore
No title to point out, with due precision,
The exact affair on which he was sent o'er.
'Twas merely known that, on a secret mission,
A foreigner of rank had graced our shore,
Young, handsome, and accomplish'd, who
was said [head.
(In whispers) to have turn'd his sovereign's

XXXIII.

Some rumor, also, of some strange adventures
Had gone before him, and his wars and loves;
And as romantic heads are pretty painters,
And, above all, an Englishwoman's roves
Into the excursive, breaking the indentures
Of sober reason, wheresoe'er it moves,
He found himself extremely in the fashion,
Which serves our thinking people for a pas-
sion.

XXXIV.

I don't mean that they are passionless, but
quite
The contrary; but then 'tis in the head;
Yet as the consequences are as bright
As if they acted with the heart instead,
What, after all, can signify the site
Of ladies' lucubrations? So they lead
In safety to the place for which you start,
What matters if the road be head or heart?

XXXV.

Juan presented in the proper place,
To proper placemen, every Russ credential;

* "Hells, gaming-houses. What their number may be now in this life, I know not. Before I was of age, I knew them pretty accurately, both "gold" and "silver." I was once nearly called out by an acquaintance, because, when he asked me where I thought that his soul would be found hereafter, I answered "in Silver Hell."

And was received with all the due grimace
By those who govern in the mood potential,
Who, seeing a handsome stripling with smooth face, [tial)
Thought (what in state affairs is most essen-
That they as easily might *do* the youngster,
As hawks may pounce upon a woodland songster.

XXXVI.

They err'd, as aged men will do: but by-
And-by we'll talk of that: and if we don't,
'Twill be because our notion is not high
Of politicians and their double front,
Who live by lies, yet dare not boldly lie:—
Now what I love in woman is, they won't
Or can't do otherwise than lie, but do it
So well, the very truth seems falsehood to it.

XXXVII.

And, after all, what is a lie? 'Tis but
The truth in masquerade; and I defy
Historians, heroes, lawyers, priests, to put
A fact without some leaven of a lie.
The very shadow of true Truth would shut
Up annals, revelations, poesy,
And prophecy—except it should be dated
Some years before the incidents related.

XXXVIII.

Praised be all liars and all lies! Who now
Can tax my mild Muse with misanthropy?
She rings the world's "Te Deum," and her brow
Blushes for those who will not;—but to sigh
Is idle; let us, like most others, bow,
Kiss hands, feet, any part of majesty,
After the good example of "Green Erin,"
Whose shamrock now seems rather worse for wearing.

XXXIX.

Don Juan was presented, and his dress
And mien excited general admiration—
I don't know which was more admired, or less:
One monstrous diamond drew much observation,
Which Catharine in a moment of *ivresse*
(In love or brandy's fervent fermentation)
Bestow'd upon him, as the public learn'd;
And, to say truth, it had been fairly earn'd.

XL.

Besides the ministers and underlings,
Who must be courteous to the accredited
Diplomatists of rather wavering kings,
Until their royal riddle's fully read;
The very clerks—those somewhat dirty springs
Of office, or the house of office, fed
By foul corruption into streams—even they
Were hardly rude enough to earn their pay.

XLI.

And insolence, no doubt, is what they are
Employ'd for, since it is their daily labor,
In the dear offices of peace or war; [neighbor,
And should you doubt, pray ask of your next
When for a passport, or some other bar
To freedom, he applied (a grief and *a* bore),
If he found not in this spawn of taxborn riches,
Like lap-dogs, the least civil sons of b——s.

XLII.

But Juan was received with much *empressement:*—
These phases of refinement I must borrow
From our next neighbor's land, where, like a chessman,
There is a move set down for joy or sorrow,
Not only in mere talking, but the press. Man,
In islands, is, it seems, downright and thorough,
More than on continents—as if the sea [free.
(See Billingsgate) made even the tongue more

XLIII.

And yet the British "Damme" 's rather Attic:
Your continental oaths are but incontinent,
And turn on things which no aristocratic
Spirit would name, and therefore even I won't anent*
This subject quote; as it would be schismatic
In *politesse*, and have a sound affronting in't:— [daring:—
But "Damme" 's quite ethereal, though too
Platonic blasphemy, the soul of swearing.

XLIV.

For downright rudeness, you may stay at home;
For true or false politeness (and scarce *that*
Now) you may cross the blue deep and white foam—
The first the emblem(rarely though) of what
You leave behind, the next of much you come
To meet. However, 'tis no time to chat
On general topics: poems must confine
Themselves to unity, like this of mine.

XLV.

In the great world—which, being interpreted,
Meaneth the west or worst end of a city,
And about twice two thousand people, bred
By no means to be very wise or witty,
But to sit up while others lie in bed,
And look down on the universe with pity—
Juan, as an inveterate patrician,
Was well received by persons of condition.

XLVI.

He was a bachelor, which is a matter
Of import to virgin and to bride,
The former's hymeneal hopes to flatter;
And (should she not hold fast by love or pride)
'Tis also of some moment to the latter:
A rib's a thorn in a wed gallant's side,
Requires decorum, and is apt to double
The horrid sin—and, what's still worse, the trouble.

* "Anent" was a Scotch phrase, meaning "concerning"—"with regard to." It has been made English by the Scotch novels; and, as the Frenchman said, "if it be not, ought to be, English."

XLVII.

But Juan was a bachelor—of arts,
And parts, and hearts: he danced and sung,
An air as sentimental as Mozart's [and had
Softest of melodies, and could be sad
Or cheerful, without any "flaws or starts,"
Just at the proper time; and though a lad,
Had seen the world—which is a curious sight,
And very much unlike what people write.

XLVIII.

Fair virgins blush'd upon him; wedded dames
Bloom'd also in less transitory hues;
For both commodities dwell by the Thames,
The painting and the painted: youth, ceruse,
Against his heart preferr'd their usual claims,
Such as no gentleman can quite refuse:
Daughters admired his dress, and pious mothers
Inquired his income, and if he had brothers.

XLIX.

The milliners who furnish "drapery misses,"*
Throughout the season, upon speculation
Of payment ere the honeymoon's last kisses
Have waned into a crescent's coruscation,
Thought such an opportunity as this is,
Of a rich foreigner's initiation,
Not to be overlook'd—and gave such credit,
That future bridegrooms swore, and sigh'd, and paid it.

L.

The Blues, that tender tribe, who sigh o'er sonnets,
And with the pages of the last Review [nets,
Line the interior of their heads or bonnets,
Advanced in all their azure's highest hue;
They talk'd bad French or Spanish, and upon
Late authors ask'd him for a hint or two; [its
And which was softest, Russian or Castilian,
And whether in his travels he saw Ilion.

LI.

Juan, who was a little superficial,
And not in literature a great Drawcansir,
Examined by this learned and especial
Jury of matrons, scarce knew what to answer;
His duties, warlike, loving, or official,
His steady application as a dancer,
Had kept him from the brink of Hippocrene,
Which now he found was blue instead of green.

LII.

However, he replied at hazard, with
A modest confidence and calm assurance,
Which lent his learned lucubrations pith,
And pass'd for arguments of good endurance.
That prodigy, Miss Araminta Smith [Who at sixteen translated *Hercules Furens*
Into as furious English), with her best look,
Set down his sayings in her commonplace book.

LIII.

Juan knew several languages—as well [in time
He might—and brought them up with skill,
To save his fame with each accomplish'd belle,
Who still regretted that he did not rhyme.
There wanted but this requisite to swell
His qualities (with them) into sublime:
Lady Fitz-Frisky, and Miss Mævia Mannish,
Both long'd extremely to be sung in Spanish.

LIV.

However, he did pretty well, and was
Admitted as an aspirant to all
The coteries, and, as in Banquo's glass,
At great assemblies or in parties small,
He saw ten thousand living authors pass,
That being about their average numeral;
Also the mighty "greatest living poets,"
As every paltry magazine can show *its*.

LV.

In twice five years the "greatest living poet,"
Like to the champion in the fisty ring,
Is call'd on to support his claim, or show it,
Although 'tis an imaginary thing.
Even I—albeit I'm sure I did not know it,
Nor sought of foolscap subjects to be king—
Was reckon'd a considerable time,
The grand Napoleon of the realms of rhyme.

LVI.

But Juan was my Moscow, and Faliero [Cain:
My Leipsic, and my Mount Saint Jean seems
La Belle Alliance of dunces down at zero,
Now that the lion's fall'n, may rise again;
But I will fall at least as fell my hero;
Nor reign at all, or as a *monarch* reign;
Or to some lonely isle of jailors go,
With turncoat Southey for my turnkey Lowe.

LVII.

Sir Walter reign'd before me; Moore and Campbell
Before and after: but now grown more holy,
The muses upon Sion's hill must ramble
With poets almost clergymen, or wholly;
And Pegasus has a Psalmodic amble
Beneath the very Reverend Rowley Powley,
Who shoes the glorious animals with stilts,
A modern Ancient Pistol—by the hilts!

LVIII.

Still he excels that artificial hard [vine
Laborer in the same vineyard, though the
Yields him but vinegar for his reward—
That neutralized dull Dorus of the Nine;
That swarthy Sporus, neither man nor bard;
That ox of verse, who *ploughs* for every line:—

* "Drapery Misses." This term is probably anything now but a mystery. It was, however, almost so to me when I first returned from the East in 1811–1812. It means a pretty, a high-born, a fashionable young female, well-instructed by her friends, and furnished by her milliner with a wardrobe upon credit, to be repaid, when married, by her husband. The riddle was first read to me by a young and pretty heiress, on my praising the "drapery" of the "untochered" but pretty virginities (like Mrs. Ann Page) of the then day, which has now been some years yesterday. She assured me that the thing was common in London; and as her own thousands, and blooming looks, and rich simplicity of array, put any suspicion in her own case out of the question, I confess I gave some credit to the allegation. If necessary, authorities might be cited, in which case I could quote both "drapery" and the wearers. Let us hope, however, that it is now obsolete.

Cambyses' roaring Romans beat at least
The howling Hebrews of Cybele's priest.—

LIX.

Then there's my gentle Euphues, who, they
Sets up for being a sort of *moral me:* * [say,
He'll find it rather difficult some day
To turn out both, or either, it may be.
Some persons think that Coleridge hath the
sway, [three;
And Wordsworth hath supporters two or
And that deep-mouthed Bœotian, "Savage
Landor,"
Has taken for a swan rogue Southey's gander.

LX.

John Keats, who was kill'd off by one critique,
Just as he really promised something great,
If not intelligible, without Greek,
Contrived to talk about the gods of late,
Much as they might have been supposed to
speak. †
Poor fellow! his was an untoward fate;
'Tis strange the mind, that very fiery particle,
Should let itself be snuff'd out by an article.

LXI.

The list grows long of live and dead pre-
tenders [know
To that which none will gain—or none will
The conqueror at least; who, ere Time renders
His last award, will have the long grass grow
Above his burnt-out brain and sapless cinders.
If I might augur, I should rate but low
Their chances: they are too numerous, like
the thirty [dirty.
Mock tyrants, when Rome's annals wax'd but

LXII.

This is the literary *lower* empire,
Where the prætorian bands take up the
matter;— [samphire,"
A "dreadful trade," like his who "gathers
The insolent soldiery to soothe and flatter,
With the same feelings as you'd coax a vam-
pire. [satire,
Now, were I once at home, and in good
I'd try conclusions with those Janizaries,
And show them *what* an intellectual war is.

LXIII.

I think I know a trick or two would turn
Their flanks;—but it is hardly worth my
while
With such small gear to give myself concern:
Indeed, I've not the necessary bile;
My natural temper is really aught but stern,
And even my Muse's worst reproof's a smile.
And then she drops a brief and modern curt-
sey,
And glides away, assured she never hurts ye.

LXIV.

My Juan, whom I left in deadly peril
Amongst live poets and blue ladies, past

* Barry Cornwall (Procter) had been so called by a reviewer.

† Divinæ particulam auræ.

With some small profit through that field so
sterile, [last,
Being tired in time, and neither least nor
Left it before he had been treated very ill;
And henceforth found himself more gaily
Amongst the higher spirits of the day, [class'd
The sun's true son, no vapor, but a ray.

LXV.

His morns he pass'd in business—which, dis-
sected,
Was like all business, a laborious nothing,
That leads to lassitude, the most infected
And Centaur Nessus garb of mortal cloth-
And on our sofas makes us lie dejected, [ing,
And talk in tender horrors of our loathing
All kinds of toil, save for our country's good—
Which grows no better, though 'tis time it
should.

LXVI.

His afternoons he pass'd in visits, luncheons,
Lounging and boxing; and the twilight hour
In riding round those vegetable puncheons
Call'd "Parks," where there is neither fruit
nor flower
Enough to gratify a bee's slight munchings;
But, after all, it is the only "bower"
(In Moore's phrase) where the fashionable fair
Can form a slight acquaintance with fresh air.

LXVII.

Then dress, then dinner, then awakes the
world; [then roar
Then glare the lamps, then whirl the wheels,
Through street and square fast flashing chari-
ots hurl'd
Like harness'd meteors; then along the floor
Chalk mimics painting; then festoons are
twirl'd;
Then roll the brazen thunders of the door,
Which opens to the thousand happy few,
An earthly paradise of "Or Molu."

LXVIII.

There stands the noble hostess, nor shall sink
With the three thousandth curtsey; there
the waltz,
The only dance which teaches girls to think,
Makes one in love even with its very faults.
Saloon, room, hall, o'erflow beyond their
And long the latest of arrivals halts, [brink,
'Midst royal dukes, and dames condemn'd to
climb,
And gain an inch of staircase at a time.

LXIX.

Thrice happy he who, after a survey
Of the good company, can win a corner,
A door that's *in*, or boudoir *out*, of the way,
Where he may fix himself like small "Jack
Horner,"
And let the Babel round run as it may,
And look on as a mourner, or a scorner,
Or an approver, or a mere spectator,
Yawning a little as the night grows later.

LXX.

But this won't do, save by and by; and he
Who, like Don Juan, takes an active share,
Must steer with care through all that glittering sea [to where
Of gems, and plumes, and pearls, and silks,
He deems it is his proper place to be;
Dissolving in the waltz, to some soft air,
Or proudlier prancing, with mercurial skill,
Where Science marshals forth her own quadrille.

LXXI.

Or, if he dance not, but hath higher views
Upon an heiress or his neighbor's bride,
Let him take care that that which he pursues
Is not at once too palpably descried.
Full many an eager gentleman oft rues
His haste; impatience is a blundering guide,
Amongst a people famous for reflection,
Who like to play the fool with circumspection.

LXXII.

But if you can contrive, get next at supper;
Or, if forestall'd, get opposite and ogle:—
Oh, ye ambrosial moments! always upper
In mind, a sort of sentimental bogle,*
Which sits forever upon memory's crupper,
The ghost of vanish'd pleasures once in vogue! Ill
Can tender souls relate the rise and fall
Of hopes and fears which shake a single ball.

LXXIII.

But these precautionary hints can touch
Only the common run, who must pursue,
And watch and ward; whose plans a word too much
Or little overturns; and not the few
Or many (for the number's sometimes such)
Whom a good mien, especially if new,
Or fame, or name, for wit, war, sense, or nonsense, [since.
Permits whate'er they please, or *did* not long

LXXIV.

Our hero, as a hero, young and handsome,
Noble, rich, celebrated, and a stranger,
Like other slaves, of course must pay his ransom,
Before he can escape from so much danger
As will environ a conspicuous man. Some
Talk about poetry, and "rack and manger,"
And ugliness, disease, as toil and trouble;—
I wish they knew the life of a young noble.

LXXV.

They are young, but know not youth—it is anticipated;
Handsome but wasted, rich without a sou;
Their vigor in a thousand arms is dissipated;
Their cash comes *from*, their wealth goes *to*, a Jew: [pated
Both senates see their nightly votes particiBetween the tyrant's and the tribunes' crew;
And having voted, dined, drunk, gamed, and w——d,
The family vault receives another lord.

* Scotch for goblin.

LXXVI.

"Where is the world?" cries Young, at *eighty*.
"Where [Alas,
The world in which a man was born?"
Where is the world of *eight* years past? 'Twas *there*—
I look for it—'tis gone, a globe of glass!
Crack'd, shiver'd, vanish'd, scarcely gazed on, ere
A silent change dissolves the glittering mass.
Statesmen, chiefs, orators, queens, patriots, kings,
And dandies, all are gone on the wind's wings.

LXXVII.

Where is Napoleon the Grand? God knows:
Where little Castlereagh? The devil can tell:
Where Grattan, Curran, Sheridan, all those
Who bound the bar or Senate in their spell?
Where is the unhappy Queen, with all her woes?
And where the Daughter, whom the Isles loved well? [Cents?
Where are those martyr'd saints, the Five per
And where—oh, where the devil are the Rents?

LXXVIII.

Where's Brummel? Dish'd. Where's Long Pole Wellesley? Diddled.
Where's Whitbread? Romilly? Where's George the Third? [riddled.)
Where is his will? (That's not so soon un-
And where is "Fum" the Fourth, our "royal bird"? [fiddled
Gone down, it seems, to Scotland, to be
Unto by Sawney's violin, we have heard!
"Caw me, caw thee"—for six months had been hatching
The scene of royal itch and royal scratching.

LXXIX.

Where is Lord This, and where my Lady That?
The Honorable Mistresses and Misses?
Some laid aside, like an old opera hat,
Married, unmarried, and remarried: (this is
An evolution oft performed of late:)
Where are the Dublin shouts—and London hisses?
Where are the Grenvilles? Turn'd, as usual.
Where [were.
My friends the Whigs? Exactly where they

LXXX.

Where are the Lady Carolines and Franceses?
Divorced, or doing thereanent. Ye annals
So brilliant, where the lists of routs and dances is—
Thou *Morning Post*, sole record of the panels
Broken in carriages, and all the phantasies
Of fashion—say what streams now fill those channels?
Some die, some fly, some languish on the Continent, [tenant.
Because the times have hardly left them *one*

LXXXI.

Some, who once set their caps at cautious dukes, [brothers:
Have taken up at length with younger
Some heiresses have bit at sharpers' hooks;
Some maids have been made wives, some merely mothers,
Others have lost their fresh and fairy looks:
In short, the list of alterations bothers.
There's little strange in this, but something strange is [changes.
The unusual quickness of these common

LXXXII.

Talk not of seventy years as age: in seven
I have seen more changes, down from monarchs to
The humblest individual under heaven,
Than might suffice a modern century through.
I knew that nought was lasting, but now even
Change grows too changeable, without being new:
Nought's permanent among the human race,
Except the Whigs *not* getting into place.

LXXXIII.

I have seen Napoleon, who seem'd quite a Jupiter,
Shrink to a Saturn. I have seen a Duke
(No matter which) turn politician stupider,
If that can well be, than his wooden look.
But it is time that I should hoist my "Blue Peter," [shook
And sail for a new theme:—I have seen, and
To see it—the king hiss'd, and then caress'd;
But don't pretend to settle which was best.

LXXXIV.

I have seen the Landholders without a rap—
I have seen Joanna Southcote—I have seen
The House of Commons turn'd to a tax-trap—
I have seen that sad affair of the late Queen—
I have seen crowns worn instead of a fool's cap— [mean—
I have seen a Congress * doing all that's
I have seen some nations, like o'erloaded asses, [classes—
Kick off their burthens—meaning the high

LXXXV.

I have seen small poets, and great posers, and
Interminable—*not eternal*—speakers—
I have seen the funds at war with house and land— [squeakers—
I have seen the country gentlemen turn
I have seen the people ridden o'er, like sand,
By slaves on horseback—I have seen malt liquors [Bull;
Exchanged for "thin potations" by John
I have seen John half detect himself a fool.—

LXXXVI.

But *carpe diem*, Juan, *carpe, carpe!* *
To-morrow sees another race as gay [harpy.
And transient, and devour'd by the same
"Life's a poor player"—then "play out the play,
Ye villains!" and, above all, keep a sharp eye
Much less on what you do than what you
Be hypocritical, be cautious, be [say;
Not what you *seem*, but always what you *see*.

LXXXVII.

But how shall I relate, in other cantos,
Of what befell our hero, in the land
Which 'tis the common cry and lie to vaunt as
A moral country? But I hold my hand—
For I disdain to write an Atalantis: †
But 'tis as well at once to understand
You are *not* a moral people, and you know it,
Without the aid of too sincere a poet.

LXXXVIII.

What Juan saw and underwent shall be
My topic, with of course the due restriction
Which is required by proper courtesy:
And recollect the work is only fiction,
And that I sing of neither mine nor me,
Though every scribe, in some slight turn of diction,
Will hint allusions never *meant*. Ne'er doubt
This—when I speak, I *don't hint*, but *speak out*,

LXXXIX.

Whether he married with the third or fourth
Offspring of some sage husband-hunting countess;
Or whether with some virgin of more worth
(I mean in Fortune's matrimonial bounties)
He took to regularly peopling earth, [is—
Of which your lawful awful wedlock fount
Or whether he was taken in for damages,
For being too excursive in his homages,—

XC.

Is yet within the unread events of time. [back
Thus far, go forth, thou lay, which I will
Against the same given quantity of rhyme,
For being as much the subject of attack
As ever yet was any work sublime,
By those who love to say that white is black.
So much the better!—I may stand alone,
But would not change my free thoughts for a throne.

* [The Congress of Verona in 1822.]

* Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero.—Hor.
† [Written by Mrs. Manley, and full of scandal, etc.]

CANTO THE TWELFTH.

1823.

I.

Of all the barbarous middle ages, that
Which is most barbarous is the middle age
Of man; it is—I really scarce know what;
But when we hover between fool and sage,
And don't know justly what we would be at—
A period something like a printed page,
Black letter upon foolscap, while our hair
Grows grizzled, and we are not what we were;—

II.

Too old for youth—too young, at thirty-five,
To herd with boys or hoard with good three-score—
I wonder people should be left alive:
But, since they are, that epoch is a bore:
Love lingers still, although 'twere late to wive;
And as for other love, the illusion's o'er;
And money, that most pure imagination,
Gleams only through the dawn of its creation.

III.

Oh Gold! Why call we misers miserable?
Theirs is the pleasure that can never pall;
Theirs is the best bower-anchor, the chain-cable
Which holds fast other pleasures great and small.
Ye who but see the saving man at table
And scorn his temperate board, as none at all,
And wonder how the wealthy can be sparing,
Know not what visions spring from each cheese-paring.

IV.

Love or lust makes man sick, and wine much sicker;
Ambition rends, and gaming gains a loss:
But making money, slowly first, then quicker,
And adding still a little through each cross
(Which *will* come over things), beats love or liquor,
Which makes bank credit like a bark of vapor.
The gamester's counter, or the statesman's *dross*.
Oh Gold! I still prefer thee unto paper,

V.

Who hold the balance of the world? Who reign
O'er congress, whether royalist or liberal?
Who rouse the shirtless patriots of Spain? *
(That make old Europe's journals squeak and gibber all.)
Who keep the world, both Old and New, in pain
Or pleasure? Who make politics run glib-ber all?
The shade of Buonaparte's noble daring?—
Jew Rothschild, and his fellow Christian Baring.

VI.

Those, and the truly liberal Lafitte,
Are the true lords of Europe. Every loan
Is not a merely speculative hit,
But seats a nation or upsets a throne.
Republics also get involved a bit;
Columbia's stock hath holders not unknown
On 'Change; and even thy silver soil, Peru,
Must get itself discounted by a Jew.

VII.

Why call the miser miserable? as
I said before: the frugal life is his
Which in a saint or cynic ever was
The theme of praise: a hermit would not miss
Canonization for the self-same cause,
And wherefore blame gaunt wealth's austerities?
Because, you'll say, nought calls for such a trial;—
Then there's more merit in his self-denial.

VIII.

He is your only poet;—passion, pure plays,
And sparkling on from heap to heap, dis-
Possessed, the ore, of which *mere hopes* allure
Nations athwart the deep: the golden rays
Flash up in ingots from the mine obscure;
On him the diamond pours its brilliant blaze;
While the mild emerald's beam shades down the dyes
Of other stones, to soothe the miser's eyes.

IX.

The lands on either side are his: the ship
From Ceylon, Inde, or fair Cathay, unloads
For him the fragrant produce of each trip:
Beneath his cars of Ceres groan the roads,
And the vine blushes like Aurora's lip:
His very cellars might be kings' abodes;
While he, despising every sensual call,
Commands—the intellectual lord of all.

X.

Perhaps he hath great projects in his mind
To build a college, or to found a race,
An hospital, a church—and leave behind
Some dome surmounted by his meagre face;
Perhaps he fain would liberate mankind,
Even with the very ore that makes them base;
Perhaps he would be wealthiest of his nation,
Or revel in the joys of calculation.

XI.

But whether all, or each, or none of these
May be the hoarder's principle of action,
The fool will call such mania a disease:—
What is his *own?* Go—look at each transaction,
Wars, revels, loves—do these bring men more ease
Than the mere plodding through each "vulgar fraction"?

* The Descamisados.

Or do they benefit mankind? Lean miser!
Let spendthrifts' heirs inquire of yours—
who's wiser?

XII.

How beauteous are rouleaus! how charming
chests
Containing ingots, bags of dollars, coins
(Not of old victors, all whose heads and crests
Weigh not the thin ore where their visage
shines,
But) of fine unclipt gold, where duly rests
Some likeness, which the glittering cirque
confines,
Of modern, reigning, sterling, stupid stamp:—
Yes! ready money is Aladdin's lamp.

XIII.

"Love rules the camp, the court, the grove—
for love [bard;
Is heaven, and heaven is love": so sings the
Which it were rather difficult to prove
(A thing with poetry in general hard).
Perhaps there may be something in "the
grove,"
At least it rhymes to "love"; but I'm pre-
pared [rental)
To doubt (no less than landlords of their
If "courts" and "camps" be quite so senti-
mental.

XIV.

But if Love don't, *Cash* does, and Cash alone:
Cash rules the grove, and fells it too besides;
Without cash, camps were thin, and courts
were none; [brides."
Without cash, Malthus tells you, "take no
So Cash rules Love the ruler, on his own
High ground, as virgin Cynthia sways the
tides: [say honey
And as for "Heaven being Love," why not
Is wax? Heaven is not Love, 'tis Matrimony.

XV.

Is not all love prohibited whatever, [doubt,
Excepting marriage? which is love, no
After a sort; but somehow people never
With the same thought the two words have
help'd out: [ever;
Love may exist *with* marriage, and *should*
And marriage also may exist without:
But love *sans* banns is both a sin and shame,
And ought to go by quite another name.

XVI.

Now if the "court," and "camp," and
"grove" be not
Recruited all with constant married men,
Who never coveted their neighbor's lot,
I say *that* line's a *lapsus* of the pen;—
Strange too in my *buon camerado*, Scott,
So celebrated for his morals, when
My Jeffrey held him up as an example
To me—of which these morals are a sample.

XVII.

Well, if I don't succeed, I *have* succeeded,
And that's enough; succeeded in my youth,
The only time when much success is needed:
And my success produced what I, in sooth,
Cared most about; it need not now be
pleaded— [truth,
Whate'er it was, 'twas mine: I've paid, in
Of late the penalty of such success,
But have not learn'd to wish it any less.

XVIII.

That suit in Chancery—which some persons
plead
In an appeal to the unborn, whom they,
In the faith of their procreative creed,
Baptize posterity, or future clay—
To me seems but a dubious kind of reed
To lean on for support in any way;
Since odds are that posterity will know
No more of them, than they of her, I trow.

XIX.

Why, I'm posterity—and so are you: [dred.
And whom do we remember? Not a hun-
Were every memory written down all true,
The tenth or twentieth name would be but
blunder'd; [few,
Even Plutarch's Lives have but pick'd out a
And 'gainst those few your annalists have
thunder'd.
And Mitford, in the nineteenth century,
Gives, with Greek truth, the good old Greek
the lie.*

XX.

Good people all, of every degree,
Ye gentle readers and ungentle writers,
In this twelfth canto 'tis my wish to be
As serious as if I had for inditers
Malthus and Wilberforce:—the last set free
The negroes, and is worth a million fighters;
While Wellington has but enslaved the whites,
And Malthus does the thing 'gainst which he
writes.

XXI.

I'm serious—so are all men upon paper:
And why should I not form my speculation,
And hold up to the sun my little taper? [tion,
Mankind just now seem wrapt in medita-
On constitutions and steamboats of vapor;
While sages write against all procreation,
Unless a man can calculate his means
Of feeding brats the moment his wife weans.

XXII.

That's noble! That's romantic! For my part,
I think that "Philo-genitiveness" is—
(Now here's a word quite after my own heart,
Though there's a shorter a good deal than
If that politeness set it not apart; [this,

* See Mitford's Greece. "Grecia Verax." His great pleasure consists in praising tyrants, abusing Plutarch, spelling oddly, and writing quaintly; and what is strange, after all, his is the best modern history of Greece in any language, and he is perhaps the best of all modern historians whatsoever. Having named his sins, it is but fair to state his virtues—learning, labor, research, wrath, and partiality. I call the latter virtues in a writer, because they make him write in earnest.

But I'm resolved to say nought that's amiss)—
I say, methinks that "Philo-genitiveness"
Might meet from men a little more forgiveness.

XXIII.

And now to business.—Oh my gentle Juan!
Thou art in London—in that pleasant place
Where every kind of mischief's daily brewing,
Which can await warm youth in its wild race.
'Tis true that thy career is not a new one:
Thou art no novice in the headlong chase
Of early life; but this is a new land,
Which foreigners can never understand.

XXIV.

What with a small diversity of climate,
Of hot or cold, mercurial or sedate,
I could send forth my mandate like a primate,
Upon the rest of Europe's social state;
But thou art the most difficult to rhyme at,
Great Britain, which the muse may penetrate.
All countries have their "lions," but in thee
There is but one superb menagerie.

XXV.

But I am sick of politics. Begin,
"Paulo majora." Juan, undecided
Amongst the paths of being "taken in,"
Above the ice had like a skater glided:
When tired of play, he flirted without sin
With some of those fair creatures who have
Themselves on innocent tantalization, [prided
And hate all vice except its reputation.

XXVI.

But these are few, and in the end may make
Some devilish escapade or stir, which shows
That even the purest people may mistake
Their way through virtue's primrose paths of snows;
And then men stare, as if a new ass spake
To Balaam, and from tongue to ear o'erflows
Quicksilver small talk, ending (if you note it)
With the kind world's amen—"Who would have thought it?"

XXVII.

The little Leila, with her orient eyes,
And taciturn Asiatic disposition [prise,
(Which saw all western things with small sur-
To the surprise of people of condition,
Who think that novelties are butterflies,
To be pursued as food for inanition),
Her charming figure and romantic history,
Became a kind of fashionable mystery.

XXVIII.

The women much divided—as is usual
Amongst the sex, in little things or great.
Think not, fair creatures, that I mean to abuse you all—
I have always liked you better than I state:
Since I've grown moral, still I must accuse you
Of being apt to talk at a great rate; [all
And now there was a general sensation
Amongst you, about Leila's education.

XXIX.

In one point only were you settled—and
You had reason: 'twas that a young child of
As beautiful as her own native land, [grace,
And far away, the last bud of her race,
Howe'er our friend Don Juan might command
Himself, for five, four, three, or two years' space,
Would be much better taught beneath the eye
Of peeresses whose follies had run dry.

XXX.

So first there was a generous emulation,
And then there was a generous competition,
To undertake the orphan's education.
As Juan was a person of condition,
It had been an affront, on this occasion,
To talk of a subscription or petition:
But sixteen dowagers, ten unwed she-sages,
Whose tale belongs to Hallam's *Middle Ages*,

XXXI.

And one or two sad, separate wives, without
A fruit to bloom upon their withering bough—
Begg'd to bring *up* the little girl, and "*out*"—
For that's the phrase that settles all things
Meaning a virgin's first blush at a rout, [now,
And all her points as thorough-bred to show:
And I assure you, that like virgin honey
Tastes their first season (mostly if they have money).

XXXII.

How all the needy, honorable misters,
Each out-at-elbow peer, or desperate dandy,
The watchful mothers and the careful sisters
(Who, by-the-by, when clever, are more handy [glisters,"
At making matches, where "'tis gold that
Than their *he* relatives), like flies o'er candy,
Buzz round "*the* Fortune" with their busy battery, [tery.
To turn her head with waltzing and with flat-

XXXIII.

Each aunt, each cousin, hath her speculation;
Nay, married dames will now and then discover
Such pure disinterestedness of passion,
I've known them court an heiress for their lover.
"Tantæne!" Such the virtues of high station,
Even in the hopeful isle, whose outlet's "Dover!" [cares,
While the poor rich wretch, object of these
Has cause to wish her sire had had male heirs.

XXXIV.

Some are soon bagg'd, but some reject three dozen.
'Tis fine to see them scattering refusals
And wild dismay o'er every angry cousin
(Friends of the party), who begin accusals

Such as—"Unless Miss (Blank) meant to have chosen
Poor Frederick, why did she accord perusals
To his billets? *Why* waltz with him? Why, I pray,
Look *yes* last night, and yet say *no* to-day?

XXXV.

"Why?—Why?—Besides, Fred really was *attach'd;* [out:
'Twas not her fortune—he has enough with-
The time will come she'll wish that she had snatch'd
So good an opportunity, no doubt:—
But the old marchioness some plan had hatch'd,
As I'll tell Aurea at to-morrow's rout:
And, after all, poor Frederick may do better—
Pray, did you see her answer to his letter?"

XXXVI.

Smart uniforms and sparkling coronets
Are spurn'd in turn, until her turn arrives,
After male loss of time, and hearts, and bets
Upon the sweepstakes for substantial wives;
And when at last the pretty creature gets
Some gentleman who fights, or writes, or drives,
It soothes the awkward squad of the rejected,
To find how very badly she selected.

XXXVII.

For sometimes they accept some long pursuer,
Worn out with importunity; or fall
(But here, perhaps, the instances are fewer)
To the lot of him who scarce pursued at all.
A hazy widower turn'd of forty's sure
(If 'tis not vain examples to recall) [her, I
To draw a high prize; now, howe'er he got
See nought more strange in this than t'other lottery.*

XXXVIII.

I, for my part—(one "modern instance" more,
"True, 'tis a pity—pity 'tis true"),
Was chosen from out an amatory score,
Albeit my years were less discreet than few;
But though I also had reform'd before
Those became one who soon were to be two,
I'll not gainsay the generous public's voice,
That the young lady made a monstrous choice.

XXXIX.

Oh, pardon my digression—or at least
Peruse! 'tis always with a moral end
That I dissert, like grace before a feast;
For, like an aged aunt or tiresome friend,
A rigid guardian, or a zealous priest,
My Muse by exhortation means to mend
All people, at all times, and in most places,
Which puts my Pegasus to these grave paces.

XL.

But now I'm going to be immoral; now
I mean to show things really as they are,
Not as they ought to be: for I avow, [far
That, till we see what's what, in fact, we're
From much improvement with that virtuous plough [scar
Which skims the surface, leaving scarce a
Upon the black loam long manured by Vice,
Only to keep its corn at the old price.

XLI.

But first of little Leila we'll dispose;
For, like a day-dawn she was young and pure,
Or like the old comparison of snows,
Which are more pure than pleasant, to be sure.
Like many people everybody knows,
Don Juan was delighted to secure
A goodly guardian for his infant charge,
Who might not profit much by being at large.

XLII.

Besides, he had found out he was no tutor
(I wish that others would find out the same);
And rather wish'd in such things to stand neuter; [blame:
For silly wards will bring their guardians
So, when he saw each ancient dame a suitor
To make his little wild Asiatic tame,
Consulting "the Society for Vice
Suppression," Lady Pinchbeck was his choice.

XLIII.

Olden she was—but had been very young:
Virtuous she was—and had been, I believe;
Although the world has such an evil tongue,
That——but my chaster ear will not receive
An echo of a syllable that's wrong:
In fact, there's nothing makes me so much grieve,
As that abominable tittle-tattle,
Which is the cud eschew'd by human cattle.

XLIV.

Moreover, I've remark'd (and I was once
A slight observer, in a modest way),
And so may every one, except a dunce,
That ladies, in their youth a little gay,
Besides their knowledge of the world, and sense
Of the sad consequence of going astray,
Are wiser in their warnings 'gainst the woe
Which the mere passionless can never know.

XLV.

While the harsh prude indemnifies her virtue,
By railing at the unknown and envied passion,
Seeking far less to save you than to hurt you,
Or, what's still worse, to put you out of fashion,— [you,
The kinder veteran with kind words will court
Entreating you to pause before you dash on;
Expounding and illustrating the riddle
Of epic Love's beginning, end, and middle.

XLVI.

Now, whether it be thus, or that they're stricter
As better knowing why they should be so,
I think you'll find from many a family picture,

* This line may puzzle the commentators more than the present generation.

That daughters of such mothers as may know [ture,
The world by experience rather than by lec-
Turn out much better for the Smithfield Show
Of vestals, brought into the marriage mart,
Than those bred up by prudes, without a heart.

XLVII.

I said that Lady Pinchbeck had been talk'd about— [pretty?
And who has not, if female, young and
But now no more the ghost of Scandal stalk'd about:
She merely was deem'd amiable and witty:
And several of her best bon-mots were hawk'd about.
Then she was given to charity and pity;
And pass'd (at least the latter years of life)
For being a most exemplary wife.

XLVIII.

High in high circles, gentle in her own,
She was the mild reprover of the young,
Whenever—which means every day—they'd
An awkward inclination to go wrong. [shown
The quantity of good she did's unknown;
Or, at the least, would lengthen out my song:
In brief, the little orphan of the East [creased.
Had raised an interest in her, which in-

XLIX.

Juan, too, was a sort of favorite with her,
Because she thought him a good heart at
A little spoil'd, but not so altogether; [bottom;
Which was a wonder, if you think who got him, [whither:
And how he had been toss'd, he scarce knew
Though this might ruin others, it did not *him*,
At least entirely: for he had seen too many
Changes in youth to be surprised at any.

L.

And these vicissitudes tell best in youth;
For when they happen at a riper age,
People are apt to blame the Fates, forsooth,
And wonder Providence is not more sage:
Adversity is the first path to truth: [rage,
He who hath proved war, storm, or woman's
Whether his winters be eighteen or eighty,
Hath won the experience which is deem'd so weighty.

LI.

How far it profits is another matter.—
Our hero gladly saw his little charge
Safe with a lady, whose last grown-up daughter,
Being long married, and thus set at large,
Had left all the accomplishments she taught her, [barge,
To be transmitted, like the Lord Mayor's
To the next comer; or—as it will tell
More Muse-like—say like Cytherea's shell.

LII.

I call such things transmission; for there is
A floating balance of accomplishment,
Which forms a pedigree from Miss to Miss.
According as their minds or backs are bent.
Some waltz; some draw; some fathom the abyss
Of metaphysics; others are content [ing:
With music; the most moderate shine as wits;
While others have a genius turn'd for fits.

LIII.

But whether fits, or wits, or harpsichords,
Theology, fine arts, or finer stays,
May be the baits for gentlemen or lords,
With regular descent, in these our days,
The last year to the new transfers its hoards:
New vestals claim men's eyes, with the same praise
Of "elegant," *et cætera*, in fresh batches—
All matchless creatures, and yet bent on matches.

LIV.

But now I will begin my poem. 'Tis
Perhaps a little strange, if not quite new,
That, from the first of cantos up to this,
I've not begun what we have to go through.
The first twelve books are merely flourishes,
Preludios, trying just a string or two
Upon my lyre, or making the pegs sure;
And, when so, you shall have the overture.

LV.

My Muses do not care a pinch of rosin [ing:
About what's call'd success, or not succeed-
Such thoughts are quite below the strain they've chosen:
'Tis a "great moral lesson" they are reading.
I thought, at setting off, about two dozen
Cantos would do; but, at Apollo's pleading,
If that my Pegasus should not be founder'd,
I think to canter gently through a hundred.

LVI.

Don Juan saw that microcosm on stilts.
Except the Great World: for it is the least.
Although the highest: but, as swords have hilts, [creased,
By which their power of mischief is in-
When man in battle or in quarrel tilts, [east,
Thus the low world, north, south, or west, or
Must still obey the high—which is their handle, [thing candle.
Their moon, their sun, their gas, their far-

LVII.

He had many friends who had many wives, and was
Well look'd upon by both to that extent
Of friendship which you may accept or pass.
It does nor good nor harm; being merely meant
To keep the wheels going of the higher class,
And draw them nightly when a ticket's sent:

And what with masquerades, and fêtes, and balls,
For the first season such a life scarce palls.

LVIII.

A young unmarried man, with a good name
And fortune, has an awkward part to play:
For good society is but a game,
"The royal game of goose," as I may say,
Where everybody has some separate aim,
An end to answer, or a plan to lay—
The single ladies wishing to be double,
The married ones to save the virgins trouble.

LIX.

I don't mean this as general, but particular
Examples may be found of such pursuits;
Though several also keep their perpendicular,
Like poplars, with good principles for roots;
Yet many have a method more *reticular*—
"Fishers for men," like sirens with soft lutes;
For talk six times with the same single lady,
And you may get the wedding dresses ready.

LX.

Perhaps you'll have a letter from the mother,
To say her daughter's feelings are trepann'd:
Perhaps you'll have a visit from the brother,
All strut, and stays, and whiskers, to demand
What "your intentions are."—One way or other, [hand:
It seems the virgin's heart expects your
And between pity for her case and yours,
You'll add to Matrimony's list of cures.

LXI.

I've known a dozen weddings made even *thus*,
And some of them high names: I have also known [cuss
Young men who—though they hated to dis-
Pretensions which they never dream'd to have shown—
Yet neither frighten'd by a female fuss,
Nor by mustachios moved, were let alone,
And lived, as did the broken-hearted fair,
In happier plight than if they form'd a pair.

LXII.

There's also nightly, to the uninitiated,
A peril—not indeed like love or marriage,
But not the less for this to be depreciated:
It is—I meant and mean not to disparage
The show of virtue even in the vitiated—
It adds an outward grace unto their carriage—
But to denounce the amphibious sort of harlot, [scarlet.
Couleur de rose, who's neither white nor

LXIII.

Such is our cold coquette, who can't say "No,"
And won't say "Yes," and keeps you on and offing—
On a lee-shore, till it begins to blow—
Then sees your heart wreck'd with an inward scoffing.
This works a world of sentimental woe,
And sends new Werters yearly to their coffin:
But yet is merely innocent flirtation,
Not quite adultery, but adulteration.

LXIV.

"Ye gods, I grow a talker!" Let us prate
The next of perils, though I place it *sternest*,
Is when, without regard to "church or state,"
A wife makes or takes love in upright earnest. [fate—
Abroad, such things decide few women's
(Such, early traveler! is the truth thou learnest)—
But in old England, when a young bride errs,
Poor thing, Eve's was a trifling case to hers.

LXV.

For 'tis a low, newspaper, humdrum, lawsuit
Country, where a young couple of the same ages [awes it.
Can't form a friendship, but the world o'er-
Then there's the vulgar trick of those d—d
damages! [it!
A verdict—grievous foe to those who cause
Forms a sad climax to romantic homages:
Besides those soothing speeches of the plead-
And evidences, which regale all readers. [ers,

LXVI.

But they who blunder thus are raw beginners:
A little genial sprinkling of hypocrisy [ners,
Has saved the fame of thousand splendid sin-
The loveliest oligarchs of our gynocracy.
You may see such at all the balls and dinners,
Amongst the proudest of our aristocracy,
So gentle, charming, charitable, chaste;
And all by having *tact* as well as taste.

LXVII.

Juan, who did not stand in the predicament
Of a mere novice, had one safeguard more;
For he was sick—no, 'twas not the word *sick*
I meant—
But he had seen so much good love before,
That he was not in heart so very weak:—I meant [shore
But this much, and no sneer against the
Of white cliffs, white necks, blue eyes, blue stockings, [knockings.
Tithes, taxes, duns, and doors with double

LXVIII.

But coming young from lands and scenes romantic, [Passion,
Where lives, not lawsuits, must be risk'd for
And Passion's self must have a spice of frantic,
Into a country where 'tis half a fashion,
Seem'd to him half commercial, half pedantic,
Howe'er he might esteem this moral nation:
Besides (alas! his taste—forgive and pity)
At first, he did not think the women pretty.

LXIX.

I say, at *first*—for he found out, at *last*,
But by degrees, that they were fairer far
Than the more glowing dames whose lot is cast
Beneath the influence of the eastern star.
A further proof we should not judge in haste:
Yet inexperience could not be his bar
To taste:—The truth is, if men would confess,
That novelties *please* less than they *impress*.

LXX.

Though travel'd, I have never had the luck to
Trace up those shuffling negroes, Nile or Niger,
To that impracticable place, Timbuctoo,
Where Geography finds no one to oblige her
With such a chart as may be safely stuck to—
For Europe ploughs in Afric like "bos piger";
But if I *had been* at Timbuctoo, there,
No doubt, I should be told that black is fair.

LXXI.

It is. I will not swear that black is white;
But I suspect, in fact, that white is black,
And the whole matter rests upon eyesight.
Ask a blind man, the best judge. You'll attack,
Perhaps, this new position—but I'm right;
Or, if I'm wrong, I'll not be ta'en aback:—
He hath no morn nor night, but all is dark
Within; and what seest thou? A dubious spark.

LXXII.

But I'm relapsing into metaphysics,
That labyrinth whose clue is of the same
Construction as your cures for hectic phthisics, [flame:
Those bright moths fluttering round a dying
And this reflection brings me to plain physics,
And to the beauties of a foreign dame,
Compared with those of our pure pearls of price,
Those polar summers, *all* sun, and some ice.

LXXIII.

Or say they are like virtuous mermaids, whose
Beginnings are fair faces, ends mere fishes;—
Not that there's not a quantity of those
Who have a due respect for their own wishes.
Like Russians running from hot baths to snows * [cious:
Are they, at bottom virtuous even when vi-
They warm into a scrape, but keep, of course,
As a reserve, a plunge into remorse.

LXXIV.

But this has nought to do with their outsides.
I said that Juan did not think them pretty
At the first blush; for a fair Briton hides
Half her attractions—probably from pity—
And rather calmly into the heart glides,
Than storms it, as a foe would take a city;
But once there (if you doubt this, pr'ythee try),
She keeps it for you, like a true ally.

LXXV.

She cannot step as does an Arab barb,
Or Andalusian girl from mass returning,
Nor wear as gracefully as Gauls her garb,
Nor in her eye Ausonia's glance is burning:
Her voice, though sweet, is not so fit to warble
Those bravuras (which I still am learning
To like, though I have been seven years in Italy, [prettily):
And have, or had, an ear that served me

LXXVI.

She cannot do these things, nor one or two
Others, in that off-hand and dashing style
Which takes so much—to give the devil his due;
Nor is she quite so ready with her smile,
Nor settles all things in one interview [toil):—
(A thing approved, as saving time and
But though the soil may give you time and
Well cultivated, it will render double. [trouble,

LXXVII.

And if, in fact, she takes a *grande passion*,
It is a very serious thing indeed:
Nine times in ten 'tis but caprice, or fashion,
Coquetry, or a wish to take the lead,
The pride of a mere child with a new sash on,
Or wish to make a rival's bosom bleed:
But the tenth instance will be a tornado,
For there's no saying what they will or may do.

LXXVIII.

The reason's obvious: if there's an *éclat*,
They lose their caste at once, as do the
And when the delicacies of the law [Parias;
Have fill'd the papers with their comments
Society, that china without flaw, [various,
(The hypocrite!) will banish them, like
To sit amidst the ruins of their guilt; [Marius,
For Fame's a Carthage not so soon rebuilt.

LXXIX.

Perhaps this is as it should be;—it is
A comment on the Gospel's "Sin no more,
And be thy sins forgiven";—but, upon this,
I leave the saints to settle their own score.
Abroad, though doubtless they do much amiss,
An erring woman finds an opener door
For her return to Virtue—as they call
That lady who should be at home to all.

LXXX.

For me, I leave the matter where I find it,
Knowing that such uneasy virtue leads
People some ten times less, in fact, to mind it,
And care but for discoveries, and not deeds;
And as for chastity, you'll never bind it
By all the laws the strictest lawyer pleads,
But aggravate the crime you've not prevented,
By rendering desperate these who had else repented.

* The Russians, as is well known, run out from their hot baths to plunge into the Neva; a pleasant practical antithesis, which it seems does them no harm.

LXXXI.

But Juan was no casuist, nor had pondered
Upon the moral lessons of mankind:
Besides, he had not seen, of several hundred,
A lady altogether to his mind.
A little *blasé*—'tis not to be wonder'd
At, that his heart had got a tougher rind;
And, though not vainer from his past success,
No doubt his sensibilities were less.

LXXXII.

He also had been busy, seeing sights—
The Parliament and all the other houses:
He sat beneath the gallery at nights,
To hear debates whose thunder *roused* (not *rouses*)
The world to gaze upon those northern lights,
Which flash'd as far as where the musk-bull * browses:
He had also stood, at times, behind the throne;
But Grey † was not arrived, and Chatham ‡ gone.

LXXXIII.

He saw, however, at the closing session,
That noble sight, when *really* free the na-
A king in constitutional possession [tion,
Of such a throne as is the proudest station,
Though despots know it not till the progression
Of freedom shall complete their education.
'Tis not mere splendor makes the show august
To eye or heart—it is the people's trust.

LXXXIV.

There, too, he saw (whate'er he may be now)
A Prince, the prince of princes, at the time,
With fascination in his very bow
And full of promise, as the spring of prime.
Though royalty was written on his brow,
He had *then* the grace, too, rare in every
Of being without alloy of fop or beau, [clime,
A finish'd gentleman from top to toe.

LXXXV.

And Juan was received, as hath been said,
Into the best society; and there
Occurr'd what often happens, I'm afraid,
However disciplined and debonnaire:—
The talent and good humor he display'd,
Besides the mark'd distinction of his air,
Exposed him, as was natural, to temptation,
Even though himself avoided the occasion.

LXXXVI.

But what, and where, with whom, and when and why,
Is not to be put hastily together;
And as my object is morality [whether
(Whatever people say), I don't know
I'll leave a single reader's eyelid dry,
But harrow up his feelings, till they wither
And hew out a huge monument of pathos,
As Philip's son proposed to do with Athos. *

LXXXVII.

Here the twelfth canto of our introduction
Ends. When the body of the book's begun,
You'll find it of a different construction [done
From what some people say 'twill be, when
The plan at present's simply in concoction.
I can't oblige you, reader, to read on:
That's your affair, not mine: a real spirit [it,
Should neither court neglect, nor dread to bear

LXXXVIII.

And if my thunderbolt not always rattles,
Remember, reader! you have had before
The worst of tempests and the best of battles,
That e'er were brew'd from elements or gore,
Besides the most sublime of—Heaven knows what else:
An usurer could scarce expect much more—
But my best canto, save one on astronomy,
Will turn upon "political economy."

LXXXIX.

That is your present theme for popularity:
Now that the public hedge hath scarce a stake,
It grows an act of public charity
To show the people the best way to break.
My plan (but I, if but for singularity,
Reserve it) will be very sure to take.
Meantime, read all the national-debt sinkers,
And tell me what you think of our great thinkers.

* For a description and print of this inhabitant of the Polar Region and native country of the Aurora Borealis, see Parry's "Voyage in Search of a North-West Passage."

† Charles, second Earl Grey, succeeded to the title in 1807.

‡ The first Lord Chatham died May, 1778.

* A sculptor projected to hew Mount Athos into a statue of Alexander, with a city in one hand, and, I believe, a river in his pocket, with various other similar devices. But Alexander is gone, and Athos remains, I trust ere long to look over a nation of freemen.

CANTO THE THIRTEENTH.

1823.

I.

I NOW mean to be serious;—it is time,
Since laughter nowadays is deem'd too serious
A jest at Vice, by Virtue's call'd a crime,
And critically held as deleterious;
Besides, the sad's a source of the sublime,
Although, when long, a little apt to weary us:
And therefore shall my lay soar high and solemn,
As an old temple dwindled to a column.

II.

The Lady Adeline Amundeville
('Tis an old Norman name, and to be found
In pedigrees, by those who wander still
Along the last fields of that Gothic ground)

Was high-born, wealthy by her father's will,
And beauteous even where beauties most abound,
In Britain—which, of course, true patriots find
The goodliest soil of body and of mind.

III.

I'll not gainsay them; it is not my cue;
I'll leave them to their taste, no doubt the best;
An eye's an eye, and whether black or blue
Is no greater matter, so 'tis in request;
'Tis nonsense to dispute about a hue—
The kindest may be taken as a test.
The fair sex should be always fair; and no man,
Till thirty, should perceive there's a plain woman.

IV.

And, after that serene and somewhat dull
Epoch, that awkward corner turn'd, for days
More quiet, when our moon's no more at full,
We may presume to criticise or praise;
Because indifference begins to lull
Our passions, and we walk in wisdom's ways;
Also because the figure and the face
Hint that 'tis time to give the younger place.

V.

I know that some would fain postpone this era,
Reluctant, as all placemen, to resign
Their post; but theirs is merely a chimera,
For they have pass'd life's equinoctial line;
But then they have their claret and Madeira,
To irrigate the dryness of decline;
And county meetings and the Parliament,
And debt, and what not, for their solace sent.

VI.

And is there not religion and reform,
Peace, war, the taxes, and what's call'd the "Nation"?
The struggle to be pilots in a storm?
The landed and the money'd speculation?
The joys of mutual hate to keep them warm,
Instead of love, that mere hallucination?
Now hatred is by far the longest pleasure:
Men love in haste, but they detest at leisure.

VII.

Rough Johnson, the great moralist, profess'd,
Right honestly, "he liked an honest hater!" * —
The only truth that yet has been confest
Within these latest thousand years or later.
Perhaps the fine old fellow spoke in jest:—
For my part, I am but a mere spectator;
And gaze where'er the palace or the hovel is,
Much in the mood of Goethe's Mephistopheles;

VIII.

But neither love nor hate in much excess;
Though 'twas not once so. If I sneer sometimes,
It is because I cannot well do less,
And now and then it also suits my rhymes.

I should be very willing to redress
Men's wrongs, and rather check than punish crimes,
Had not Cervantes, in that too true tale
Of Quixote, shown how all such efforts fail.

IX.

Of all tales 'tis the saddest—and more sad
Because it makes us smile: his hero's right,
And still pursues the right;—to curb the bad
His only object; and 'gainst odds to fight,
His guerdon: 'tis his virtue makes him mad!
But his adventures form a sorry sight;
A sorrier still is the great moral taught,
By that real epic, unto all who have thought.

X.

Redressing injury, revenging wrong,
To aid the damsel and destroy the caitiff;
Opposing singly the united strong,
From foreign yoke to free the helpless native:—
Alas! must noblest views, like an old song,
Be for mere fancy's sport a theme creative,
A jest, a riddle, Fame through thick and thin sought!
And Socrates himself but Wisdom's Quixote?

XI.

Cervantes smiled Spain's chivalry away:
A single laugh demolish'd the right arm
Of his own country:—seldom, since that day,
Has Spain had heroes. While Romance could charm,
The world gave ground before her bright array;
And therefore have his volumes done such harm,
That all their glory, as a composition,
Was dearly purchased by his land's perdition.

XII.

I'm "at my old lunes"—digression, and forget
The Lady Adeline Amundeville;
The fair most fatal Juan ever met,
Although she was not evil, nor meant ill;
But Destiny and Passion spread the net
(Fate is a good excuse for our own will),
And caught them;—what do they *not* catch methinks?
But I'm not Œdipus, and Life's a Sphinx.

XIII.

I tell the tale as it is told, nor dare
To venture a solution: "*Davus sum!*" *
And now I will proceed upon the pair.
Sweet Adeline, amidst the gay world's hum,
Was the Queen-Bee, the glass of all that's fair;
Whose charms made all men speak, and women dumb:
The last's a miracle, and such was reckon'd;
And since that time there has not been a second.

XIV.

Chaste was she, to detraction's desperation,
And wedded unto one she had loved well—
A man known in the councils of the nation,
Cool, and quite English, imperturbable,

* "Sir, I like a good hater."—See the "Life of Dr. Johnson," etc.

* [Davus sum, non Œdipus.—Ten.]

Though apt to act with fire upon occasion, [tell
Proud of himself and her: the world could
Nought against either, and both seem'd se-
She in her virtue, he in his hauteur. [cure—

XV.

It chanced some diplomatical relations,
Arising out of business, often brought
Himself and Juan, in their mutual stations,
Into close contact. Though reserved, nor
caught [tience,
By specious seeming, Juan's youth, and pa-
And talent, on his haughty spirit wrought,
And form'd a basis of esteem, which ends
In making men what courtesy calls friends.

XVI.

And thus Lord Henry, who was cautious as
Reserve and pride could make him, and full
slow
In judging men, when once his judgment was
Determined, right or wrong, on friend or
Had all the pertinacity pride has, [foe,
Which knows no ebb to its imperious flow,
And loves or hates, disdaining to be guided,
Because its own good pleasure hath decided.

XVII.

His friendships, therefore, and no less aver-
sions, [but more
Though oft well founded, which confirm'd
His prepossessions, like the laws of Persians
And Medes, would ne'er revoke what went
before. [tertians,
His feelings had not those strange fits, like
Of common likings, which make some de-
plore [still
What they should laugh at—the mere ague
Of men's regard, the fever or the chill.

XVIII.

"'Tis not in mortals to command success, [it";
But *do you more*, Sempronius—*don't* deserve
And, take my word, you won't have any less.
Be wary, watch the time, and always serve it;
Give gently way, when there's too great a
press; [nerve it;
And for your conscience, only learn to
For, like a racer or a boxer, training, [paining.
'Twill make, if proved, vast efforts without

XIX.

Lord Henry, also, liked to be superior,
As most men do, the little or the great:
The very lowest find out an inferior,
At least they think so, to exert their state
Upon: for there are very few things wearier
Than solitary Pride's oppressive weight,
Which mortals generously would divide,
By bidding others carry while they ride.

XX.

In birth, in rank, in fortune likewise equal,
O'er Juan he could no distinction claim;
In years he had the advantage of time's sequel,
And, as he thought, in country much the
same— [quill,
Because bold Britons have a tongue and free

At which all modern nations vainly aim;
And the Lord Henry was a great debater,
So that few members kept the House up late

XXI.

These were advantages; and then he thought—
It was his foible, but by no means sinister—
That few or none more than himself ha
caught [ministe
Court mysteries, having been himself
He liked to teach that which he had bee
taught, [a sti
And greatly shone whenever there had bee
And reconciled all qualities which grace man
Always a patriot, and sometimes a placeman

XXII.

He liked the gentle Spaniard for his gravity
He almost honored him for his docility,
Because, though young, he acquiesced wit
suavity,
Or contradicted with but proud humility;
He knew the world, and would not see d
pravity [fertility
In faults which sometimes show the soil
If that the weeds o'erlive not the first crop—
For then they are very difficult to stop.

XXIII.

And then he talk'd with him about Madrid,
Constantinople, and such distant places;
Where people always did as they were bid,
Or did what they should not with foreig
graces.
Of coursers, also, spake they: Henry rid
Well, like most Englishmen, and loved th
And Juan, like a true-born Andalusian, [race
Could back a horse, as despots ride a Russian

XXIV.

And thus acquaintance grew, at noble rout
And diplomatic dinners, or at other—
For Juan stood well both with Ins and Out
As in freemasonry a higher brother.
Upon his talent Henry had no doubts;
His manners show'd him sprung from
high mother:
And all men like to show their hospitality
To him whose breeding matches with h
quality.

XXV.

At Blank-Blank Square:—for we will brea
no squares, [sorious
By naming streets: since men are so cen
And apt to sow an author's wheat with tare
Reaping allusions private and inglorious,
Where none were dreamt of, unto love's affair
Which were, or are, or are to be, notorious
That therefore do I previously declare,
Lord Henry's mansion was in Blank-Blan
Square.

XXVI.

Also there bin * another pious reason
For making squares and streets anonymous
Which is, that there is scarce a single seaso

* "With everything that pretty bin,
My lady sweet, arise."—SHAKSPEARE.

Which doth not shake some very splendid house [treason—
With some slight heart-quake of domestic
A topic scandal doth delight to rouse:
Such I might stumble over unawares,
Unless I knew the very chastest squares.

XXVII.

'Tis true, I might have chosen Piccadilly,
A place where peccadillos are unknown;
But I have motives, whether wise or silly,
For letting that pure sanctuary alone;
Therefore I name not square, street, place, until I [shown,
Find one where nothing naughty can be
A vestal shrine of innocence of heart:
Such are——but I have lost the London Chart.

XXVIII.

At Henry's mansion, then, in Blank-Blank Square,
Was Juan a *recherché*, welcome guest,
As many other noble scions were; [crest;
And some who had but talent for their
Or wealth, which is a passport everywhere;
Or even mere fashion, which indeed's the
Recommendation: and to be well drest [best
Will very often supersede the rest.

XXIX.

And since "there's safety in a multitude
Of counsellors," as Solomon hath said,
Or some one for him, in some sage, grave mood;—
Indeed, we see the daily proof display'd,
In senates, at the bar, in wordy feud,
Where'er collective wisdom can parade,
Which is the only course, that we can guess,
Of Britain's present wealth and happiness:

XXX.

But as "there's safety" grafted in the number
"Of counsellors," for men—thus for the sex
A large acquaintance lets not Virtue slumber;
Or, should it shake, the choice will more
Variety itself will more encumber. [perplex—
'Midst many rocks we guard more against
wrecks. [some's
And thus with women: howsoe'er it shocks
Self-love, there's safety in a crowd of cox-combs.

XXXI.

But Adeline had not the least occasion
For such a shield, which leaves but little
To virtue proper or good education. [merit
Her chief resource was in her own high spirit, [tion;
Which judged mankind at their due estima-
And for coquetry, she disdain'd to wear it:
Secure of admiration, its impression
Was faint, as of an every-day possession.

XXXII.

To all she was polite, without parade;
To some she show'd attention of that kind
Which flatters, but is flattery convey'd
In such a sort as cannot leave behind
A trace unworthy either wife or maid:—
A gentle, genial courtesy of mind,
To those who were, or pass'd for, meritorious,
Just to console sad glory for being glorious;

XXXIII.

Which is in all respects, save now and then,
A dull and desolate appendage. Gaze
Upon the shades of those distinguish'd men,
Who were, or are, the puppet-shows of praise,
The praise of persecution. Gaze again
On the most favor'd, and, amidst the blaze
Of sunset halos o'er the laurel-brow'd,
What can ye recognize?—a gilded cloud.

XXXIV.

There also was, of course, in Adeline,
That calm patrician polish in the address,
Which ne'er can pass the equinoctial line
Of anything which nature would express;
Just as a mandarin finds nothing fine,—
At least his manner suffers not to guess,
That anything he views can greatly please.
Perhaps we have borrow'd this from the Chinese,

XXXV.

Perhaps from Horace: his "*Nil admirari*"
Was what he call'd the "Art of Happiness";
An art on which the artists greatly vary,
And have not yet attain'd to much success:
However, 'tis expedient to be wary:
Indifference, certes, don't produce distress;
And rash enthusiasm, in good society,
Were nothing but a moral inebriety.

XXXVI.

But Adeline was not indifferent; for
(*Now* for a commonplace!) beneath the
As a volcano holds the lava more [snow,
Within—*et cetera*. Shall I go on?—No!
I hate to hunt down a tired metaphor,
So let the often-used volcano go.
Poor thing! How frequently by me and others,
It hath been stirr'd up till its smoke quite smothers!

XXXVII.

I'll have another figure in a trice—
What say you to a bottle of champagne?
Frozen into a very vinous ice,
Which leaves few drops of that immortal
Yet in the very centre, past all price, [rain
About a liquid glassful will remain;
And this is stronger than the strongest grape
Could e'er express in its expanded shape:

XXXVIII.

'Tis the whole spirit brought to a quintessence;
And thus the chilliest aspects may concentre
A hidden nectar under a cold presence. [her
And such are many—though I only meant
From whom I may deduce these moral lessons,
On which the Muse has always sought to enter;
And your cold people are beyond all price,
When once you've broken their confounded ice.

XXXIX.

But, after all, they are a North-west Passage
Unto the glowing India of the soul;
And as the good ships sent upon that message
Have not exactly ascertain'd the Pole
(Though Parry's efforts look a lucky presage),
Thus gentlemen may run upon a shoal;
For if the Pole's not open, but all frost
(A chance still), 'tis a voyage or vessel lost.

XL.

And young beginners may as well commence
With quiet cruising o'er the ocean, woman;
While those who are not beginners should have sense [summon
Enough to make for port, ere time shall
With his grey signal-flag; and the past tense,
The dreary "*fuimus*" of all things human,
Must be declined, while life's thin thread's spun out
Between the gaping heir and gnawing gout.

XLI.

But heaven must be diverted: its diversion
Is sometimes truculent—but never mind:
The world upon the whole is worth the assertion
(If but for comfort) that all things are kind:
And that same devilish doctrine of the Persian,*
Of the two principles, but leaves behind
As many doubts as any other doctrine
Has ever puzzled Faith withal, or yoked her in.

XLII.

The English winter—ending in July,
To recommence in August—now was done.
'Tis the postilion's paradise: wheels fly: [a run.
On roads, east, south, north, west, there is
But for post-horses who finds sympathy?
Man's pity's for himself, or for his son,
Always premising that said son, at college,
Has not contracted much more debt than knowledge.

XLIII.

The London winter's ended in July—
Sometimes a little later. I don't err
In this: whatever other blunders lie
Upon my shoulders, here I must aver
My Muse a glass of weatherology;
For Parliament is our barometer:
Let Radicals its other Acts attack;
Its sessions form our only almanac.

XLIV.

When its quicksilver's down at zero—lo!
Coach, chariot, luggage, baggage, equipage!
Wheels whirl from Carlton palace to Soho;
And happiest they who horses can engage;
The turnpikes glow with dust; and Rotten Row
Sleeps from the chivalry of this bright age;
And tradesmen, with long bills, and longer faces,
Sigh as the postboys fasten on the traces.

[* Zoroaster.]

XLV.

They and their bills, "Arcadians both," * are left
To the Greek kalends of another session.
Alas! to them of ready cash bereft,
What hope remains? Of *hope* the full possession
A generous draft, conceded as a gift, [session
At a long date—till they can get a fresh one—
Hawk'd about at a discount, small or large;
Also the solace of an overcharge.

XLVI.

But these are trifles. Downward flies my lord
Nodding beside my lady in his carriage.
Away! away! "Fresh horses!" are the word
And changed as quickly as hearts after marriage: [stored
The obsequious landlord hath the change restored.
The postboys have no reason to disparage
Their fee; but ere the water'd wheels may hiss hence,
The ostler pleads too for a reminiscence.

XLVII.

'Tis granted; and the valet mounts the dickey—
That gentleman of lords and gentlemen;
Also my lady's gentlewoman, tricky, [per
Trick'd out, but modest more than poet's
Can paint—"*Cosi viaggino i Ricchi!*"
(Excuse a foreign slipslop now and then,
If but to show I've travel'd; and what's travel
Unless it teaches one to quote and cavil?)

XLVIII.

The London winter and the country summer
Were well nigh over. 'Tis perhaps a pity
When nature wears the gown that doth become her
To lose those best months in a sweaty city
And wait until the nightingale grows dumbent
Listening debates not very wise or witty,
Ere patriots their true *country* can remember;— [temben
But there's no shooting (save grouse) till Sep

XLIX.

I've done with my tirade. The world was gone
The twice two thousand, for whom earth was made,
Were vanish'd to be what they call alone—
That is, with thirty servants for parade,
As many guests, or more; before whom groan
As many covers, duly, daily laid.
Let none accuse old England's hospitality—
Its quantity is but condensed to quality.

L.

Lord Henry and the Lady Adeline
Departed, like the rest of their compeers,
The peerage, to a mansion very fine;
The Gothic Babel of a thousand years.

* "Arcades Ambo."

None than themselves could boast a longer line,
Where time through heroes and through beauties steers;
And oaks as olden as their pedigree,
Told of their sires, a tomb in every tree.

LI.

A paragraph in every paper told
Of their departure; such is modern fame:
'Tis pity that it takes no further hold
Than an advertisement, or much the same;
When, ere the ink be dry, the sound grows cold.
The *Morning Post* was foremost to proclaim—
"Departure for his country seat, to-day,
Lord H. Amundeville, and Lady A.

LII.

"We understand the splendid host intends
To entertain, this autumn, a select
And numerous party of his noble friends;
'Midst whom, we heard from sources quite correct,
The Duke of D—— the shooting season spends;
With many more by rank and fashion
Also a foreigner of high condition,
The envoy of the secret Russian mission."

LIII.

And thus we see—who doubts the *Morning Post?*
(Whose articles are like the "Thirty-nine,"
Which those most swear to who believe them most)—
Our gay Russ Spaniard was ordain'd to shine,
Deck'd by the rays reflected from his host,
With those who, Pope says, "greatly daring, dine."—
'Tis odd, but true—last war, the news abound-ed
More with these dinners than the kill'd or wounded,—

LIV.

As thus: "On Thursday there was a grand dinner;
Present, Lords A. B. C."—Earls, dukes, by name
Announced with no less pomp than victory's winner:
Then underneath, and in the very same
Column: date, "Falmouth. There has lately been here
The slap-dash regiment, so well known to fame,
Whose loss in the late action we regret:
The vacancies are fill'd up—see *Gazette.*"

LV.

To Norman Abbey whirl'd the noble pair—
An old, old monastery once, and now
Still older mansion—of a rich and rare
Mix'd Gothic, such as artists all allow
Few specimens yet left us can compare
Withal; it lies perhaps a little low,
Because the monks preferr'd a hill behind,
To shelter their devotion from the wind.

LVI.

It stood embosom'd in a happy valley,
Crown'd by high woodlands, where the Druid oak
Stood, like Caractacus, in act to rally
His host, with broad arms 'gainst the thunder-stroke;
And from beneath his boughs were seen to sally
The dappled foresters—as day awoke,
The branching stag swept down with all his herd,
To quaff a brook which murmur'd like a bird.

LVII.

Before the mansion lay a lucid lake,
Broad as transparent, deep, and freshly fed
By a river, which its soften'd way did take
In currents through the calmer waters spread
Around: the wild fowl nestled in the brake
And sedges, brooding in their liquid bed:
The woods sloped downwards to its brink, and stood
With their green faces fix'd upon the flood.

LVIII.

Its outlet dash'd into a deep cascade,
Sparkling with foam, until, again subsiding,
Its shriller echoes—like an infant made
Quiet—sank into softer ripples, gliding
Into a rivulet; and thus allay'd,
Pursued its course, now gleaming, and now hiding
Its windings through the woods: now clear, now blue,
According as the skies their shadows threw.

LIX.

A glorious remnant of the Gothic pile
(While yet the church was Rome's) stood half apart,
In a grand arch, which once screen'd many an aisle.
These last had disappear'd—a loss to art:
The first yet frown'd superbly o'er the soil,
And kindled feelings in the roughest heart,
Which mourn'd the power of time or tempest's march,
In gazing on that venerable arch.

LX.

Within a niche, nigh to its pinnacle, stone;
Twelve saints had once stood sanctified in
But these had fallen, not when the friars fell,
But in the war which struck Charles from his throne,
When each house was a fortalice—as tell
The annals of full many a line undone—
The gallant cavaliers, who fought in vain
For those who knew not to resign or reign.

LXI.

But in a higher niche, alone, but crown'd,
The Virgin Mother of the God-born Child,
With her Son in her blessed arms, look'd round,
Spared by some chance, when all beside was spoil'd:
She made the earth below seem holy ground.
This may be superstition, weak or wild;
But even the faintest relics of a shrine
Of any worship wake some thoughts divine.

LXII.

A mighty window, hollow in the centre,
Shorn of its glass of thousand colorings,

Through which the deepen'd glories once could enter,
Streaming from off the sun, like seraph's [wings,
Now yawns all desolate: now loud, now fainter,
The gale sweeps through its fretwork, and oft sings
The owl his anthem, where the silenced choir
Lie with their hallelujahs, quench'd like fire.

LXIII.

But in the noontide of the moon, and when
The wind is winged from one point of heaven,
There moans a strange unearthly sound, which
Is musical—a dying accent, driven [then
Through the huge arch, which soars and sinks again.
Some deem it but the distant echo, given
Back to the night-wind by the waterfall,
And harmonized by the old choral wall:

LXIV.

Others, that some original shape or form,
Shaped by decay perchance, hath given the power [warm
(Though less than that of Memnon's statue,
In Egypt's rays, to harp at a fix'd hour)
To this gray ruin with a voice to charm.
Sad, but serene, it sweeps o'er tree or tower:
The cause I know not, nor can solve; but such
The fact:—I've heard it—once perhaps too much.

LXV.

Amidst the court a Gothic fountain play'd,
Symmetrical, but deck'd with carvings quaint—
Strange faces, like to men in masquerade,
And here perhaps a monster, there a saint:
The spring gush'd through grim mouths of granite made,
And sparkled into basins, where it spent
Its little torrent in a thousand bubbles,
Like man's vain glory, and his vainer troubles.

LXVI.

The mansion's self was vast and venerable,
With more of the monastic than has been
Elsewhere preserved: the cloisters still were stable,
The cells, too, and refectory, I ween:
An exquisite small chapel had been able,
Still unimpair'd, to decorate the scene:
The rest had been reform'd, replaced, or sunk,
And spoke more of the baron than the monk.

LXVII.

Huge halls, long galleries, spacious chambers join'd
By no quite lawful marriage of the arts,
Might shock a connoisseur; but, when combined,
Form'd a whole which, irregular in parts,
Yet left a grand impression on the mind,
At least of those whose eyes are in their hearts.
We gaze upon a giant, for his stature;
Nor judge, at first, if all be true to nature.

LXVIII.

Steel barons, molten the next generation
To silken rows of gay and garter'd earls,
Glanced from the walls in goodly preservation;
And Lady Mary's, blooming into girls,
With fair long locks, had also kept their station;
And countesses, mature in robes and pearls;
Also some beauties of Sir Peter Lely,
Whose drapery hints we may admire them freely.

LXIX.

Judges in very formidable ermine
Were there, with brows that did not much invite
The accused to think their lordships would determine
His cause by leaning much from might to right:
Bishops, who had not left a single sermon;
Attorneys-General, awful to the sight,
As hinting more (unless our judgments warp us)
Of the "Star Chamber" than of "Habeas Corpus."

LXX.

Generals, some all in armor, of the old
And iron time, ere lead had ta'en the lead:
Others in wigs of Marlborough's martial fold,
Huger than twelve of our degenerate breed:
Lordlings, with staves of white or keys of gold:
Nimrods, whose canvas scarce contain'd the steed;
And here and there some stern high patriot stood,
Who could not get the place for which he sued.

LXXI.

But, ever and anon, to soothe your vision,
Fatigued with these hereditary glories,
There rose a Carlo Dolce or a Titian,
Or wilder group of savage Salvatore's:*
Here danced Albano's boys; and here the sea shone
In Vernet's ocean-lights: and there the stories
Of martyrs awed, as Spagnoletto tainted
His brush with all the blood of all the sainted.

LXXII.

Here sweetly spread a landscape of Lorraine;
There Rembrandt made his darkness equal light,
Or gloomy Caravaggio's gloomier stain
Bronzed o'er some lean and stoic anchorite:
But, lo, a Teniers woos, and not in vain,
Your eyes to revel in a livelier sight:
His bell-mouth'd goblet makes me feel quite Danish†
Or Dutch, with thirst—what, ho! a flask of Rhenish.

LXXIII.

Oh, reader! if that thou canst read,—and know
'Tis not enough to spell, or even to read,
To constitute a reader: there must go
Virtues of which both you and I have need.

* Salvator Rosa.
† If I err not, "Your Dane" is one of Iago's catalogue of nations "exquisite in their drinking."

Firstly, begin with the beginning—(though
That clause is hard); and, secondly, proceed;
Thirdly, commence not with the end—or, sinning
In this sort, end at last with the beginning.

LXXIV.

But, reader, thou hast patient been of late;
While I, without remorse of rhyme or fear,
Have built and laid out ground at such a rate,
Dan Phœbus takes me for an auctioneer.
That poets were so from their earliest date,
By Homer's "catalogue of ships" is clear;
But a mere modern must be moderate—
I spare you, then, the furniture and plate.

LXXV.

The mellow autumn came, and with it came
The promised party, to enjoy its sweets.
The corn is cut, the manor full of game;
The pointer ranges, and the sportsman beats
In russet jacket;—lynx-like is his aim; [feats.
Full grows his bags, and wonder*ful* his
Ah, nut-brown partridges! Ah, brilliant pheasants! [ants.
And ah, ye poachers!—'tis no sport for peas-

LXXVI.

An English autumn, though it hath no vines
Blushing with Bacchant coronals along
The paths, o'er which the far festoon entwines
The red grape in the sunny lands of song,
Hath yet a purchased choice of choicest wines;
The claret light, and the Madeira strong.
If Britain mourn her bleakness, we can tell her
The very best of vineyards is the cellar.

LXXVII.

Then, if she hath not that serene decline
Which makes the southern autumn's day
As if 'twould to a second spring resign [appear
The season, rather than to winter drear,—
Of in-door comforts still she hath a mine—
The sea-coal fires, the "earliest of the year":
Without doors, too, she may compete in mellow,
As what is lost in green is gain'd in yellow.

LXXVIII.

And for the effeminate *villeggiatura*—
Rife with more horns than hounds—she hath the chase
So animated, that it might lure a
Saint from his beads to join the jocund race:
Even Nimrod's self might leave the plains of Dura,*
And wear the Melton jacket for a space;
If she hath no wild boars, she hath a tame
Preserve of bores who ought to be made game.

LXXIX.

The noble guests assembled at the Abbey
Consisted of—we give the sex the *pas*—
The Duchess of Fitz-Fulke, the Countess Crabby;
The Ladies Scilly, Busey;—Miss Eclat, [by,
Miss Bombazeen, Miss Macstay, Miss O'Tab-
And Mrs. Rabbi, the rich banker's squaw;
Also the Honorable Mrs. Sleep, [sheep;
Who look'd a white lamb, yet was a black

LXXX.

With other Countesses of Blank—but rank;
At once the "lie" and the *élite* of crowds,
Who pass like water filter'd in a tank, [clouds;
All purged and pious from their native
Or paper turn'd to money by the Bank:
No matter how or why, the passport shrouds
The *passée* and the past; for good society
Is no less famed for tolerance than piety—

LXXXI.

That is, up to a certain point; which point
Forms the most difficult in punctuation.
Appearances appear to form the joint
On which it hinges in a higher station;
And so that no explosion cry, "Aroint
Thee, witch!" or each Medea has her Jason:
Or (to the point with Horace and with Pulci)
"*Omne tulit punctum*, quæ *miscuit utile dulci*."

LXXXII.

I can't exactly trace their rule of right,
Which hath a little leaning to a lottery.
I've seen a virtuous woman put down quite
By the mere combination of a coterie.
Also a so-so matron boldly fight [tery;
Her way back to the world, by dint of plot-
And shine the very *Siria* of the spheres,
Escaping with a few slight, scarless sneers.

LXXXIII.

I have seen more than I'll say;—but we will
How our *villeggiatura* will get on. [see
The party might consist of thirty-three,
Of highest caste—the Brahmins of the *ton*.
I have named a few, not foremost in degree,
But ta'en at hazard as the rhyme may run.
By way of sprinkling, scatter'd amongst these,
There were also some Irish absentees.

LXXXIV.

There was Parolles, too, the legal bully,
Who limits all his battles to the bar
And senate: when invited elsewhere, truly,
He shows more appetite for words than war.
There was the young bard Rackrhyme, who had newly
Come out, and glimmer'd as a six weeks' star;
There was Lord Pyrrho, too, the great free-thinker;
And Sir John Pottledeep, the mighty drinker.

LXXXV.

There was the Duke of Dash, who was a—duke, [peers
"Ay, every inch a" duke; there were twelve
Like Charlemagne's—and all such peers in look
And intellect, that neither eyes nor ears
For commoners had ever them mistook. [dears!
There were the six Miss Rawbolds—pretty

* In Assyria.

All song and sentiment, whose hearts were set
Less on a convent than a coronet;

LXXXVI.

There were four Honorable Misters, whose
Honor was more before their names than after:
There was the preux Chevalier de la Ruse,
Whom France and Fortune lately deign'd to waft here,
Whose chiefly harmless talent was to amuse;
But the clubs found it rather serious laughter,
Because—such was his magic power to please—
The dice seem'd charm'd, too, with his repartees.

LXXXVII.

There was Dick Dubious, the metaphysician,
Who loved philosophy and a good dinner;
Angle, the *soi-disant* mathematician;
Sir Henry Silvercup, the great race winner.
There was the Reverend Rodomont Precisian,
Who did not hate so much the sin as sinners;
And Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet,
Good at all things, but better at a bet.

LXXXVIII.

There was Jack Jargon, the gigantic guardsman;
And General Fireface, famous in the field,
A great tactician and no less a swordsman,
Who ate, last war, more Yankees than he kill'd.
There was the waggish Welsh judge, Jefferies
In his grave office so completely skill'd,
That, when a culprit came for condemnation,
He had his judge's joke for consolation.

LXXXIX.

Good company's a chess-board—there are kings,
Queens, bishops, knights, rooks, pawns: the world's a game;
Save that the puppets pull at their own strings,
Methinks gay Punch hath something of the same.
My Muse, the butterfly, hath but her wings,
Not stings, and flits through ether without aim,
Alighting rarely;—were she but a hornet,
Perhaps there might be vices which would mourn it.

XC.

I had forgotten—but must not forget—
An orator, the latest of the session,
Who had deliver'd well a very set
Smooth speech, his first and maidenly transgression
Upon debate: the papers echoed yet
With his *début*, which made a strong impression;
And rank'd with what is every day display'd—
"The best first speech that ever yet was made."

XCI.

Proud of his "Hear him!" proud, too, of his vote
And lost virginity of oratory,
Proud of his learning (just enough to quote),
He revell'd in his Ciceronian glory:
With memory excellent to get by rote,
With wit to hatch a pun or tell a story,
Graced with some merit and with more effrontery,
"His country's pride," he came down to the country.

XCII.

There also were two wits by acclamation,
Longbow from Ireland, Strongbow * from the Tweed,
Both lawyers, and both men of education;
But Strongbow's wit was of more polish'd breed:
Longbow was rich in an imagination
As beautiful and bounding as a steed,
But sometimes stumbling over a potato—
While Strongbow's best things might have come from Cato.

XCIII.

Strongbow was like a new-tuned harpsichord;
But Longbow wild as an Æolian harp,
With which the winds of heaven can claim accord,
And make a music, whether flat or sharp.
Of Strongbow's talk you would not change a word:
At Longbow's phrases you might sometimes carp:
Both wits—one born so, and the other bred,
This by his heart—his rival by his head.

XCIV.

If all these seem a heterogeneous mass
To be assembled at a country seat,
Yet think, a specimen of every class
Is better than a humdrum *tête-à-tête*.
The days of Comedy are gone, alas,
When Congreve's fool could vie with Molière's *bête*;
Society is smooth'd to that excess,
That manners hardly differ more than dress.

XCV.

Our ridicules are kept in the background—
Ridiculous enough, but also dull:
Professions, too, are no more to be found
Professional: and there is nought to cull
Of folly's fruit: for though your fools abound,
They're barren, and not worth the pains to pull.
Society is now one polish'd horde,
Form'd of two mighty tribes, the *Bores* and *Bored*.

XCVI.

But from being farmers we turn gleaners,
Gleaning truth;
The scanty but right well thresh'd ears of
And, gentle reader! when you gather meaning,
You may be Boaz, and I—modest Ruth.
Further I'd quote, but Scripture intervening
Forbids. A great impression in my youth
Was made by Mrs. Adams, where she cries,
"That Scriptures out of church are blasphemies." †

[* Curran and Erskine.]

† "Mrs. Adams answered Mr. Adams, that it was blasphemous to talk of Scripture out of church." This dogma was broached to her husband—the best Christian in any book. See Joseph Andrews, in the latter chapters.

XCVII.

But what we can, we glean in this vile age
Of chaff, although our gleanings be not
I must not quite omit the talking sage, [grist,
Kit-Cat, the famous conversationist,
Who, in his common-place book, had a page
Prepared each morn for evenings. "List,
oh, list!"—
"Alas, poor ghost!"—What unexpected woes
Await those who have studied their *bon mots!*

XCVIII.

Firstly, they must allure the conversation,
By many windings, to their clever clench;
And secondly, must let slip no occasion,
Nor *bate* (abate) their hearers of an *inch*,
But take an ell—and make a great sensation,
If possible; and thirdly, never flinch
When some smart talker puts them to the test,
But seize the last word, which no doubt's the best.

XCIX.

Lord Henry and his lady were the hosts;
The party we have touch'd on were the guests!
Their table was a board to tempt even ghosts
To pass the Styx for more substantial feasts.
I will not dwell upon ragouts or roasts,
Albeit all human history attests
That happiness for man—the hungry sinner!—
Since Eve ate apples, much depends on dinner.

C.

Witness the lands which "flow'd with milk and honey,"
Held out unto the hungry Israelites:
To this we have added since the love of money,
The only sort of pleasure which requites.
Youth fades, and leaves our days no longer sunny:
We tire of mistresses and parasites;
But oh, ambrosial cash! Ah, who would lose thee?
When we no more can use, or even abuse, thee?

CI.

The gentlemen got up betimes to shoot,
Or hunt: the young, because they liked the sport—
The first thing boys like, after play and fruit:
The middle-aged, to make the day more short;
For *ennui* is a growth of English root,
Though nameless in our language: we retort
The fact for words, and let the French translate
That awful yawn which sleep cannot abate.

CII.

The elderly walk'd through the library, [tures,
And tumbled books, or criticised the pic-
Or sauntered through the garden piteously,
And made upon the hot-house several strictures,
Or rode a nag which trotted not too high,
Or in the morning papers read their lectures,
Or on the watch their longing eyes would fix,
Longing, at sixty, for the hour of six.

CIII.

But none were *géné:* the great hour of union
Was rung by dinner's knell; till then all were
Masters of their own time—or in communion,
Or solitary, as they chose to bear [known.
The hours, which how to pass is but to few
Each rose up at his own, and had to spare
What time he chose for dress, and broke his fast [repast.
When, where, and how he chose for that

CIV.

The ladies—some rouged, some a little pale—
Met the morn as they might. If fine, they rode,
Or walk'd; if foul, they read, or told a tale,
Sung, or rehearsed the last dance from abroad; [vail,
Discuss'd the fashion which might next pre-
And settled bonnets, by the newest code,
Or cramm'd twelve sheets into one little letter,
To make each correspondent a new debtor.

CV.

For some had absent lovers, all had friends.
The earth has nothing like a she-epistle,
And hardly heaven—because it never ends.
I love the mystery of a female missal,
Which, like a creed, ne'er says all it intends,
But, full of cunning as Ulysses' whistle,
When he allured poor Dolon:—you had better
Take care what you reply to such a letter.

CVI.

Then there were billiards; cards, too, but *no* dice;—
Save in the clubs, no man of honor plays;—
Boats when 'twas water, skating when 'twas ice,
And the hard frost destroy'd the scenting days;
And angling, too, that solitary vice,
Whatever Izaak Walton sings or says:
The quaint, old, cruel coxcomb in his gullet
Should have a hook, and a small trout to pull it.*

* It would have taught him humanity at least. This sentimental savage, whom it is a mode to quote (amongst the novelists), to show their sympathy for innocent sports and old songs, teaches how to sew up frogs, and break their legs by way of experiment, in addition to the art of angling, the cruelest, the coldest, and the stupidest of pretended sports. They may talk about the beauties of nature, but the angler merely thinks of his dish of fish: he has no leisure to take his eyes from off the streams, and a single bite is worth to him more than all the scenery around. Besides, some fish bite best on a rainy day. The whale, the shark, and the tunny fishery have somewhat of noble and perilous in them; even net-fishing, trawling, etc., are more humane and useful; but angling! No angler can be a good man.

"One of the best men I ever knew—as humane, delicate-minded, generous, and excellent a creature as any in the world—was an angler; true, he angled with painted flies, and would have been incapable of the extravagances of I. Walton."

The above addition was made by a friend in reading over the MS.—"Audi alteram partem." I leave it to counterbalance my own observation.

CVII.

When evening came the banquet and the wine,
The conversazione; the duet,
Attuned by voices more or less divine [yet).
(My heart or head aches with the memory
The four Miss Rawbolds in a glee would shine;
But the two youngest loved more to be set
Down to the harp, because to music's charms
They added graceful necks, white hands and arms.

CVIII.

Sometimes a dance (though rarely on field days,
For then the gentlemen were rather tired)
Display'd some sylph-like figures in its maze:
Then there was small talk ready when required;
Flirtation—but decorous; the mere praise
Of charms that should or should not be admired.
The hunters fought their fox-hunt o'er again,
And then retreated soberly—at ten.

CIX.

The politicians, in a nook apart, [spheres;
Discuss'd the world, and settled all the
The wits watch'd every loophole for their art,
To introduce a *bon mot*, head and ears.
Small is the rest of those who would be smart:
A moment's good thing may have cost them
Before they find an hour to introduce it, [years
And then, even *then*, some bore may make them lose it.

CX.

But all was gentle and aristocratic [cold,
In this our party; polish'd, smooth, and
As Phidian forms cut out of marble Attic.
There now are no Squire Westerns, as of old;
And our Sophias are not so emphatic,
But fair as then, or fairer to behold.
We have no accomplish'd blackguards, like Tom Jones,
But gentlemen in stays, as stiff as stones.

CXI.

They separated at an early hour; [noon:
That is, ere midnight—which is London's
But in the country, ladies seek their bower
A little earlier than the waning moon.
Peace to the slumbers of each folded flower—
May the rose call back its true color soon!
Good hours of fair cheeks are the fairest tinters, [winters.
And lower the price of rouge—at least some

CANTO THE FOURTEENTH.

1823.

I.

If from great nature's or our own abyss
Of thought, we could but snatch a certainty,
Perhaps mankind might find the path they miss— [phy.
But then 'twould spoil much good philoso-
One system eats another up, and this
Much as old Saturn ate his progeny;
For when his pious consort gave him stones
In lieu of sons, of these he made no bones.

II.

But System doth reverse the Titan's breakfast,
And eats her parents, albeit the digestion
Is difficult. Pray tell me, can you make fast,
After due search, your faith to any question?
Look back o'er ages, ere unto the stake fast
You bind yourself, and call some mode the best one. [senses;
Nothing more true than *not* to trust your
And yet what are your other evidences?

III.

For me, I know nought: nothing I deny,
Admit, reject, contemn; and what know *you*,
Except, perhaps, that you were born to die?
And both may, after all, turn out untrue.
An age may come, Font of Eternity,
When nothing shall be either old or new.
Death, so call'd, is a thing which makes men weep;
And yet a third of life is pass'd in sleep.

IV.

A sleep without dreams, after a rough day
Of toil, is what we covet most; and yet
How clay shrinks back from more quiescent
The very suicide that pays his debt [clay!
At once without instalments (an old way
Of paying debts, which creditors regret),
Lets out impatiently his rushing breath,
Less from disgust of life than dread of death.

V.

'Tis round him, near him, here, there, everywhere: [fear,
And there's a courage which grows out of
Perhaps of all most desperate, which will dare
The worst to *know* it:—when the mountains rear [there
Their peaks beneath your human foot, and
You look down o'er the precipice, and drear
The gulf of rock yawns,—you can't gaze a minute
Without an awful wish to plunge within it.

VI.

'Tis true, you don't—but, pale and struck with terror,
Retire; but look into your past impression!
And you will find, though shuddering at the mirror
Of your own thoughts, in all their self-con-
The lurking bias, be it truth or error, [fession,
To the *unknown*; a secret prepossession

To plunge with all your fears—but where?
You know not;
And that the reason why you do—or do not.

VII.

But what's this to the purpose? you will say:
Gent. reader, nothing; a mere speculation,
For which my sole excuse is—'tis my way,
Sometimes *with*, and sometimes without occasion,
I write what's uppermost, without delay:
This narrative is not meant for narration;
But a mere airy and fantastic basis,
To build up common things with common-places.

VIII.

You know, or don't know, that great Bacon saith,
"Fling up a straw, 'twill show the way the wind blows";
And such a straw, borne on by human breath,
Is poesy, according as the mind glows;
A paper kite which flies 'twixt life and death,
A shadow which the onward soul behind throws;
And mine's a bubble, not blown up for praise,
But just to play with, as an infant plays.

IX.

The world is all before me—or behind;
For I have seen a portion of that same,
And quite enough for me to keep in mind;—
Of passions too I've proved enough to blame,
To the great pleasure of our friends, mankind,
Who like to mix some slight alloy with fame;
For I was rather famous in my time,
Until I fairly knock'd it up with rhyme.

X.

I have brought this world about my ears, and eke
The other: that's to say, the clergy—who
Upon my head have bid their thunders break,
In pious libels by no means a few.
And yet I can't help scribbling once a week,
Tiring old readers, nor discovering new.
In youth I wrote because my mind was full,
And now because I feel it growing dull.

XI.

But "why then publish?" There are no rewards
Of fame or profit, when the world grows weary.
I ask in turn,—Why do you play at cards?
Why drink? Why read?—To make some hours less dreary.
It occupies me to turn back regards
On what I've seen or ponder'd, sad or cheery;
And what I write, I cast upon the stream,
To swim or sink—I've had at least my dream.

XII.

I think that, were I *certain* of success,
I hardly could compose another line;
So long I've battled either more or less,
That no defeat can drive me from the Nine.
This feeling 'tis not easy to express,
And yet 'tis not affected, I opine.
In play, there are two pleasures for your choosing—
The one is winning, and the other losing.

XIII.

Besides, my Muse by no means deals in fiction:
She gathers a repertory of facts,
Of course with some reserve and slight restriction,
But mostly sings of human things and acts—
And that's one cause she meets with contradiction,
For too much truth at first sight ne'er attracts;
And were her object only what's call'd glory,
With more ease too she'd tell a different story.

XIV.

Love, war, a tempest—surely there's variety;
Also a seasoning slight of incubration:
A bird's-eye view, too, of that wild, Society;
A slight glance thrown on men of every station.
If you had nought else, here's at least satiety,
Both in performance and in preparation;
And though these lines should only line portmanteaus,
Trade will be all the better for these cantos.

XV.

The portion of this world which I at present
Have taken up, to fill the following sermon,
Is one of which there's no description recent:
The reason why is easy to determine;
Although it seems both prominent and pleasant,
There is a sameness in its gems and ermine,
A dull and family likeness through all ages,
Of no great promise for poetic pages.

XVI.

With much to excite, there's little to exalt;
Nothing that speaks to all men and all times;
A sort of varnish over every fault,
A kind of commonplace, even in their crimes;
Factitious passion, wit without much salt,
A want of that true nature which sublimes
Whate'er it shows with truth; a smooth monotony
Of character, in those at least who've got any.

XVII.

Sometimes, indeed, like soldiers off parade,
They break their ranks, and gladly leave the drill,
But then the roll-call draws them back afraid,
And they must be or seem what they were;
Doubtless it is a brilliant masquerade.
But when of the first sight you've had your still,
It palls—at least it did so upon me,
This paradise of pleasure and *ennui*.

XVIII.

When we have made our love, and gamed our gaming,
Drest, voted, shone, and, maybe, something more;
With dandies dined; heard senators declaiming;
Seen beauties brought to market by the score,

Sad rakes to sadder husbands chastely taming;
There's little left but to be bored or bore.
Witness those *ci-devant jeunes hommes* who
stem [them.
The stream, nor leave the world which leaveth

XIX.

'Tis said—indeed, a general complaint—
That no one has succeeded in describing
The *monde* exactly as they ought to paint:
Some say that authors only snatch, by
bribing [quaint,
The porter, some slight scandals strange and
To furnish matter for their moral gibing;
And that their books have but one style in
common—
My lady's prattle, filter'd through her woman.

XX.

But this can't well be true just now; for writers
Are grown of the *beau monde* a part potential:
[fighters,
I've seen them balance even the scale with
Especially when young, for that's essential.
Why do their sketches fail them as inditers
Of what they deem themselves most consequential,
The *real* portrait of the highest tribe?
'Tis that, in fact, there's little to describe.

XXI.

"*Haud ignara loquor*"; these are *Nugæ*, "*quaPars* parva *fui*," but still art and part. [*rum*
Now I could much more easily sketch a harem,
A battle, wreck, or history of the heart, ['em
Than these things; and, besides, I wish to spare
For reasons which I choose to keep apart.
"*Vetabo Cereris sacrum qui vulgarit*"—*
Which means that vulgar people must not
share it.

XXII.

And therefore what I throw off is ideal—
Lower'd, leaven'd, like a history of freemasons;
Which bears the same relation to the real,
As Captain Parry's voyage may do to
Jason's.
The grand arcanum's not for men to see all;
My music has some mystic diapasons:
And there is much which could not be appreIn any manner by the uninitiated. [ciated

XXIII.

Alas! worlds fall—and woman, since she fell'd
The world (as, since that history, less polite
Than true, hath been a creed so strictly held),
Has not yet given up the practice quite.
Poor thing of usages! coerced, compell'd,
Victim when wrong, and martyr oft when
right,
[sins,
Condemn'd to child-bed, as men, for their
Have shaving too entailed upon their chins,—

* [Hor. Carm. l. iii. od. 2.]

XXIV.

A daily plague, which, in the aggregate,
May average, on the whole, the parturition;
But as to women, who can penetrate
The real sufferings of their she condition?
Man's very sympathy with their estate
Has much of selfishness and more suspicion.
Their love, their virtue, beauty, education,
But form good housekeepers, to breed a nation.

XXV.

All this were very well, and can't be better;
But even this is difficult, Heaven knows,
So many troubles from her birth beset her,
Such small distinction between friends and
foes.
The gilding wears so soon from off her fetter,
That——but ask any woman if she'd choose
(Take her at thirty, that is) to have been
Female or male? a school-boy or a queen?

XXVI.

"Petticoat influence" is a great reproach,
Which even those who obey would fain be
thought
To fly from, as from hungry pikes a roach;
But since beneath it, upon earth, we're
brought,
By various joltings of life's hackney coach,
I for one venerate a petticoat—
A garment of a mystical sublimity,
No matter whether russet, silk, or dimity.

XXVII.

Much I respect, and much I have adored [veil,
In my young days, that chaste and goodly
Which holds a treasure like a miser's hoard,
And more attracts by all it doth conceal—
A golden scabbard on a Damasque sword,
A loving letter with a mystic seal,
A cure for grief—for what can ever rankle
Before a petticoat and peeping ankle?

XXVIII.

And when, upon a silent, sullen day,
With a sirocco, for example, blowing,
When even the sea looks dim with all its spray,
And sulkily the river's ripple's flowing,
And the sky shows that very ancient gray,
The sober, sad antithesis to glowing,—
'Tis pleasant, if *then* anything is pleasant,
To catch a glimpse even of a pretty peasan.

XXIX.

We left our heroes and our heroines [climate,
In that fair clime which don't depend on
Quite independent of the Zodiac's signs,
Though certainly more difficult to rhyme at,
Because the sun, and stars, and aught that
shines,
[at,
Mountains, and all we can be most sublime
Are there oft dull and dreary as a *dun*—
Whether a sky's or tradesman's is all one.

XXX.

An in-door life is less poetical; [and sleet,
And out-of-door hath showers, and mists,

With which I could not brew a pastoral:
But, be it as it may, a bard must meet
All difficulties, whether great or small,
To spoil his undertaking or complete.
And work away, like spirit upon matter,
Embarrass'd somewhat both with fire and water.

XXXI.

Juan—in this respect at least like saints—
Was all things unto people of all sorts,
And lived contentedly, without complaints,
In camps, in ships, in cottages, or courts—
Born with that happy soul which seldom faints,
And mingling modestly in toils or sports.
He likewise could be most things to all women,
Without the coxcombry of certain *she* men.

XXXII.

A fox-hunt to a foreigner is strange:
'Tis also subject to the double danger
Of tumbling first, and having, in exchange,
Some pleasant jesting at the awkward stranger:
But Juan had been early taught to range
The wilds, as doth an Arab turn'd avenger:
So that his horse, or charger, hunter, hack,
Knew that he had a rider on his back.

XXXIII.

And now in this new field, with some applause,
He clear'd hedge, ditch, and double post and rail,
And never *craned*,* and made but few *faux pas*:
And only fretted when the scent 'gan fail.
He broke, 'tis true, some statutes of the laws
Of hunting—for the sagest youth is frail:
Rode o'er the hounds, it may be, now and then,
And once o'er several country gentlemen.

XXXIV.

But, on the whole, to general admiration
He acquitted both himself and horse: the Marvell'd at merit of another nation; [squires
The boors cried, "Dang it, who'd have thought it?"—Sires,
The Nestors of the sporting generation,
Swore praises, and recall'd their former fires:
The huntsman's self relented to a grin,
And rated him almost a whipper-in.

XXXV.

Such were his trophies—not of spear and shield, [brushes;
But leaps, and bursts, and sometimes foxes' tails:
Yet I must own—although in this I yield
To patriot sympathy a Briton's blushes—
He thought at heart like a true Englishman,
Who, after a long chase o'er hills and dales,
Which sometimes terminates not unto his praise,
And what not, though he rode beyond all
Ask'd, next day, "if there were any hounds lost?"

XXXVI.

He also had a quality uncommon
To early risers after a long chase,
Who wake in winter ere the cock can summon
December's dawning day to his due race—
A quantity appreciable to woman,
When her soft, fluttering words run on apace,
Which makes a listener, whether sad or sinner—
He did not fall asleep just after dinner.

XXXVII.

But, light and airy, stood on the alert,
And shone in the best part of dialogue,
By humouring always what they might assert,
And listening to the topics most in vogue:
Now grave, now gay, but never dull or pert:
And smiling but in secret—cunning rogue!
He ne'er presumed to make an error clearer:—
In short, there never was a better hearer.

XXXVIII.

And then he danced—all foreigners excel
The serious Angles in the eloquence
Of pantomime—he danced, I say, right well,
With emphasis, and also with good sense—
A thing in footing indispensable:
He danced without theatrical pretence;
Not like a ballet-master in the van
Of his drilled nymphs, but like a gentleman.

XXXIX.

Chaste were his steps, each kept within due bound,
And elegance was sprinkled o'er his figure;
Like swift Camilla, he scarce skimm'd the ground,
And rather held in than put forth his vigor;
And then he had an ear for music's sound,
Which might defy a critchet critic's rigor:
Such classic *pas*—*sans* flaws—set off our hero,
He glanced like a personified Bolero;

XL.

Or like a flying Hour before Aurora,
In Guido's famous fresco, which alone
Is worth a tour to Rome, although no more a
Remnant were there of the old world's sole throne.
The *tout ensemble* of his movements wore a
Grace of the soft ideal seldom shown,
And ne'er to be described: for, to the dolor
Of bards and prosers, words are void of color.

XLI.

No marvel then he was a favorite:
A full-grown Cupid, very much admired;
A little spoilt, but by no means so quite;

---

* Craning.—"To crane" is, or was, an expression used to denote a gentleman stretching out his neck over a hedge "to look before he leaped."—A pause in the "vaulting ambition" which in the field doth sometimes some delay and execration in those who may be immediately behind the equestrian sceptic. "Sir if you don't choose to take the lead, let me," was a phrase which generally sent the aspirant on again: and to good purpose: for though the "horse and rider" might fall, they made a gap, through which, and over him and his steed, the field might follow.

* See his letters to his Son.

At least he kept his vanity retired.
Such was his tact, he could alike delight
The chaste, and those who're not so much inspired: [*casserie*,
The Duchess of Fitz-Fulke, who loved *tra-*
Began to treat him with some small *agacerie*.

XLII.

She was a fine and somewhat full-blown blonde,
For several winters in the grand, *grand monde*.
I'd rather not say what might be related
Of her exploits, for this were ticklish ground;
Besides, there might be falsehood in what's stated:
Her late performance had been a dead set
At Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet.

XLIII.

This noble personage began to look
A little black upon this new flirtation:
But such small licenses must lovers brook,
Mere freedoms of the female corporation.
Woe to the man who ventures a rebuke!
'Twill but precipitate a situation
Extremely disagreeable, but common
To calculators, when they count on woman.

XLIV.

The circle smiled, then whisper'd, and then sneer'd; [frown'd:
The Misses bridled, and the matrons
Some hoped things might not turn out as they fear'd; [be found;
Some would not deem such women could
Some ne'er believed one-half of what they heard; [profound;
Some look'd perplex'd, and others look'd
And several pitied, with sincere regret,
Poor Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet.

XLV.

But what is odd, none ever named the Duke,
Who, one might think, was something in the affair:
True, he was absent, and, 'twas rumor'd, took
But small concern about the when, or where,
Or what his consort did: if he could brook
Her gaieties, none had a right to stare.
Theirs was that best of unions, past all doubt,
Which never meets, and therefore can't fall out.

XLVI.

But oh that I should ever pen so sad a line!
Fired with an abstract love of virtue, she,
My Dian of the Ephesians, Lady Adeline,
Began to think the Duchess' conduct free;
Regretting much that she had chosen so bad
And waxing chiller in her courtesy, [a line,
Look'd grave and pale to see her friend's fragility, [bility.
For which most friends reserve their sensi-

XLVII.

There's nought in this bad world like sympa-
'Tis so becoming to the soul and face; [thy:
Sets to soft music the harmonious sigh,
And robes sweet friendship in a Brussel's lace.
Without a friend, what were humanity,
To hunt our errors up with a good grace?
Consoling us with—"Would you had thought twice!
Ah! if you had but follow'd my advice!"

XLVIII.

Oh, Job! you had two friends: one's quite enough.
Especially when we are ill at ease:
They are but bad pilots when the weather's rough; [fees.
Doctors less famous for their cures than
Let no man grumble when his friends fall off,
As they will do like leaves at the first breeze:
When your affairs come round, one way or t'other,
Go to the coffee-house, and take another.*

XLIX.

But this is not my maxim: had it been,
Some heart-aches had been spared me: yet I care not—
I would not be a tortoise in his screen
Of stubborn shell, which waves and weather wear not.
'Tis better, on the whole, to have felt and seen
That which humanity may bear, or bear not:
'Twill teach discernment to the sensitive,
And not to pour their ocean in a sieve.

L.

Of all the horrid, hideous notes of woe, [blast:
Sadder than owl-songs or the midnight
Is that portentous phrase, "I told you so,"
Utter'd by friends, those prophets of the past, [do]
Who, 'stead of saying what you now should
Own they foresaw that you would fall at last,
And solace your slight lapse 'gainst *bonos mores*,
With a long memorandum of old stories.

LI.

The Lady Adeline's serene severity
Was not confined to feeling for her friend
Whose fame she rather doubted with posterity,
Unless her habits should begin to mend:
But Juan also shared in her austerity,
But mix'd with pity, pure as e'er was penn'd
His inexperience moved her gentle ruth,
And (as her junior by six weeks) his youth.

LII.

These forty days' advantage of her years—
And hers were those which can face calculation,

* In Swift's or Horace Walpole's letters, I think it is mentioned that somebody, regretting the loss of a friend, was answered by an universal Pylades: "When I lose one, I go to the St. James's Coffee-house, and take another."

I recollect having heard an anecdote of the same kind. Sir W. D. was a great gamester. Coming in one day to the club of which he was a member, he was observed to look melancholy. "What is the matter, Sir William?" cried Hare, of facetious memory. "Ah," replied Sir W., "I have just lost poor Lady D." "Lost! What at—Quinze or Hazard?" was the consolatory rejoinder of the querist.

Boldly referring to the list of peers, [tion—
And noble births, nor dread the enumera-
Gave her a right to have maternal fears
For a young gentleman's fit education; [leap
Though she was far from that leap-year, whose
In female dates, strikes Time all of a heap.

LIII.

This may be fix'd at somewhere before thirty—
Say seven-and-twenty, for I never knew
The strictest in chronology and virtue [new.
Advance beyond, while they could pass for
Oh Time! why dost not pause? Thy scythe, so dirty [hew.
With rust, should surely cease to hack and
Reset it: shave more smoothly, also slower,
If but to keep thy credit as a mower.

LIV.

But Adeline was far from that ripe age,
Whose ripeness is but bitter at the best:
'Twas rather her experience made her sage;
For she had seen the world, and stood its test,
As I have said in—I forget what page:
My Muse despises reference, as you've guess'd [twenty,
By this time;—but strike six from seven-and-
And you will find her sum of years in plenty.

LV.

At sixteen she came out, presented, vaunted;
She put all coronets into commotion: [ed
At seventeen, too, the world was still enchant-
With the new Venus of their brilliant ocean:
At eighteen, though below her feet still panted
A hecatomb of suitors with devotion,
She had consented to create again
That Adam, call'd "the happiest of men."

LVI.

Since then she had sparkled through three glowing winters,
Admired, adored; but also so correct,
That she had puzzled all the acutest hinters,
Without the apparel of being circumspect.
They could not even glean the slightest splinters
From off the marble, which had no defect.
She had also snatch'd a moment since her marriage,
To bear a son and heir—and one miscarriage.

LVII.

Fondly the wheeling fire-flies flew around her,
Those little glitterers of the London night:
But none of these possess'd a sting to wound her—
She was a pitch beyond a coxcomb's flight.
Perhaps she wish'd an aspirant profounder;
But whatsoe'er she wish'd, she acted right:
And whether coldness, pride, or virtue, dignify
A woman, so she's good, what does it signify?

LVIII.

I hate a motive, like a lingering bottle, [stand,
Which with the landlord makes too long a
Leaving all claretless the unmoisten'd throt-
Especially with politics on hand: [tle,
I hate it, as I hate a drove of cattle,
Who whirl the dust as simooms whirl the
I hate it, as I hate an argument, [sand;
A laureate's ode, or servile peer's "content."

LIX.

'Tis sad to hack into the roots of things,
They're so much intertwisted with the earth:
So that the branch a goodly verdure flings,
I reck not if an acorn gave it birth.
To trace all actions to their secret springs,
Would make indeed some melancholy mirth;
But this is not at present my concern,
And I refer you to wise Oxenstiern.*

LX.

With the kind view of saving an *éclat*,
Both to the Duchess and diplomatist,
The Lady Adeline, as soon's she saw
That Juan was unlikely to resist—
(For foreigners don't know that a *faux pas*
In England ranks quite on a different list
From those of other lands unblest with juries,
Whose verdict for such sin a certain cure is)—

LXI.

The Lady Adeline resolved to take [impede
Such measures as she thought might best
The further progress of this sad mistake.
She thought with some simplicity indeed;
But innocence is bold even at the stake,
And simple in the world, and doth not need,
Nor use, those palisades by dames erected,
Whose virtue lies in never being detected.

LXII.

It was not that she fear'd the very worst:
His Grace was an enduring married man,
And was not likely all at once to burst
Into a scene, and swell the client's clan
Of Doctors' Commons; but she dreaded first
The magic of her Grace's talisman,
And next a quarrel (as he seem'd to fret)
With Lord Augustus Fitz-Plantagenet.

LXIII.

Her Grace, too, pass'd for being an *intrigante*,
And somewhat *méchante* in her amorous sphere; [haunt
One of those pretty, precious plagues, which
A lover with caprices soft and dear,
That like to *make* a quarrel, when they can't
Find one, each day of the delightful year;
Bewitching, torturing, as they freeze or glow,
And—what is worst of all—won't let you go:

LXIV.

The sort of thing to turn a young man's head,
Or make a Werter of him in the end.
No wonder then a purer soul should dread

* The famous Chancellor Oxenstiern said to his son, on the latter expressing his surprise upon the great effects arising from petty causes in the presumed mystery of politics: "You see by this, my son, with how little wisdom the kingdoms of the world are governed."

This sort of chaste *liaison* for a friend:
It were much better to be wed or dead,
Than wear a heart a woman loves to rend.
'Tis best to pause, and think, ere you rush on,
If that a *bonne fortune* be really *bonne*.

LXV.

And first, in the o'erflowing of her heart,
Which really knew, or thought it knew, no guile,
She call'd her husband now and then apart,
And bade him counsel Juan. With a smile,
Lord Henry heard her plans of artless art
To wean Don Juan from the siren's wile;
And answer'd, like a statesman or a prophet,
In such guise that she could make nothing of it.

LXVI.

Firstly, he said, "he never interfered
In anybody's business but the king's."
Next, that "he never judged from what appear'd, [things";
Without strong reason, of those sort of
Thirdly, that "Juan had more brain than beard,
And was not to be held in leading-strings";
And fourthly, what need hardly be said twice,
"That good but rarely came from good advice."

LXVII.

And therefore, doubtless to approve the truth
Of the last axiom, he advised his spouse
To leave the parties to themselves, forsooth—
At least as far as *bienseance* allows; [youth;
That time would temper Juan's faults of
That young men rarely made monastic
That opposition only more attaches— [vows;
But here a messenger brought in despatches;

LXVIII.

And being of the council call'd the "Privy,"
Lord Henry walk'd into his cabinet,
To furnish matter for some future Livy,
To tell how he reduced the nation's debt;
And if their full contents I do not give ye,
It is because I do not know them yet:
But I shall add them in a brief appendix,
To come between mine epic and its index.

LXIX.

But ere he went, he added a slight hint,
Another gentle commonplace or two,
Such as are coin'd in conversation's mint,
And pass, for want of better, though not new:
Then broke his packet to see what was in't,
And, having casually glanced it through,
Retired: and, as he went out, calmly kiss'd her,
Less like a young wife than an aged sister.

LXX.

He was a cold, good, honorable man,
Proud of his birth, and proud of everything;
A goodly spirit for a state divan,
A figure fit to walk before a king:
Tall, stately, form'd to lead the courtly van
On birthdays glorious, with a star and
The very model of a chamberlain— [string;
And such I mean to make him, when I reign

LXXI.

But there was something wanting on the whole— [tell—
I don't know what, and therefore cannot
Which pretty women—the sweet souls!—cal
Certes it was not body: he was well [soul
Proportion'd, as a poplar or a pole,
A handsome man, that human miracle;
And in each circumstance of love or war,
Had still preserved his perpendicular.

LXXII.

Still there was something wanting, as I've
That undefinable "*Je ne sçais quoi*," [said—
Which, for what I know, may of yore have led
To Homer's *Iliad*, since it drew to Troy
The Greek Eve, Helen, from the Spartan's bed:
Though, on the whole, no doubt, the Dardan
Was much inferior to King Menelaus:— [boy
But thus it is some women will betray us.

LXXIII.

There is an awkward thing which much perplexes,
Unless like wise Tiresias we had proved,
By turns, the difference of the several sexes:
Neither can show quite *how* they would be loved.
The sensual for a short time but connects us—
The sentimental boasts to be unmoved;
But both together form a kind of Centaur,
Upon whose back 'tis better not to venture.

LXXIV.

A something all-sufficient for the *heart*
Is that for which the sex are always seeking:
But how to fill up that same vacant part?
There lies the rub—and this they are but
Frail mariners afloat without a chart, [weak in.
They run before the wind through high seas
breaking; [every shock,
And when they've made the shore through
'Tis odd, or odds, it may turn out a rock.

LXXV.

There is a flower call'd "Love in Idleness,"
For which see Shakspeare's ever-blooming garden:—
I will not make his great description less,
And beg his British godship's humble par-
If, in my extremity of rhyme's distress, [don,
I touch a single leaf where he is warden:—
But though the flower is different, with the French [*venche!*" *
Or Swiss Rousseau, cry "*Voilà la Per-*

LXXVI.

Eureka! I have found it! What I mean
To say is, not that love is idleness,
But that in love such idleness has been
An accessory, as I have cause to guess.

* See "La Nouvelle Heloise."

Hard labor's an indifferent go-between;
Your men of business are not apt to express
Much passion, since the merchant-ship the
Convey'd Medea as her supercargo. [Argo

LXXVII.

"*Beatus ille procul!*" from "*negotiis*," *
Saith Horace: the great little poet's wrong;
His other maxim, "*Noscitur à sociis*,"
Is much more to the purpose of his song;
Though even that were sometimes too ferocious,
Unless good company be kept too long;
But in his teeth, whate'er their state or station,
Thrice happy they who *have* an occupation!

LXXVIII.

Adam exchanged his paradise for ploughing;
Eve made up millinery with fig-leaves—
The earliest knowledge from the tree so knowing,
As far as I know, that the church receives:
And since that time it need not cost much showing
That many of the ills o'er which man grieves,
And still more women, spring from not employing [joying.
Some hours to make the remnant worth en-

LXXIX.

And hence high life is oft a dreary void,
A rack of pleasures, where we must invent
A something wherewithal to be annoy'd.
Bards may sing what they please about *Content*:
Contented, when translated, means but cloy'd;
And hence arise the woes of sentiment,
Blue-devils, and blue-stockings, and romances, [dances.
Reduced to practice, and perform'd like

LXXX.

I do declare, upon an affidavit,
Romances I ne'er read like those I've seen;
Nor, if unto the world I ever gave it, [been:
Would some believe that such a tale had
But such intent I never had, nor have it:
Some truths are better kept behind a screen,
Especially when they would look like lies;
I therefore deal in generalities.

LXXXI.

"An oyster may be cross'd in love"†—and
Because he mopeth idly in his shell, [why?
And heaves a lonely subterraqueous sigh,
Much as a monk may do within his cell;
And *à propos* of monks, their piety
With sloth hath found it difficult to dwell;
Those vegetables of the Catholic creed
Are apt exceedingly to run to seed.

LXXXII.

Oh Wilberforce! thou man of black renown,
Whose merit none enough can sing or say,
Thou hast struck one immense Colossus down,
Thou moral Washington of Africa!
But there's another little thing, I own,
Which you should perpetrate some summer's day,
And set the other half of earth to rights;
You have freed the *blacks*—now pray shut up the whites.

LXXXIII.

Shut up the bald-coot bully Alexander!
Ship off the Holy Three to Senegal;
Teach them that "sauce for goose is sauce for gander,"
And ask them how *they* like to be in thrall?
Shut up each high heroic salamander, [small);
Who eats fire gratis (since the pay's but
Shut up—no, *not* the King, but the Pavilion,
Or else 'twill cost us all another million.

LXXXIV.

Shut up the world at large; let Bedlam out;
And you will be perhaps surprised to find
All things pursue exactly the same route,
As now with those of *soi-disant* sound mind.
This I could prove beyond a single doubt,
Were there a jot of sense among mankind;
But till that *point d'appui* is found, alas,
Like Archimedes, I leave earth as 'twas.

LXXXV.

Our gentle Adeline had one defect—
Her heart was vacant, though a splendid mansion,
Her conduct had been perfectly correct,
As she had seen nought claiming its expansion.
A wavering spirit may be easier wreck'd,
Because 'tis frailer, doubtless, than a staunch one:
But when the latter works its own undoing,
Its inner crash is like an earthquake's ruin.

LXXXVI.

She loved her lord, or thought so; but *that* love
Cost her an effort, which is a sad toil,
The stone of Sisyphus, if once we move
Our feelings 'gainst the nature of the soil.
She had nothing to complain of, or reprove,
No bickerings, no connubial turmoil:
Their union was a model to behold,
Serene and noble—conjugal, but cold.

LXXXVII.

There was no great disparity of years, [clash'd;
Though much in temper; but they never
They moved like stars united in their spheres,
Or like the Rhone by Leman's waters wash'd,
Where mingled, and yet separate, appears
The river from the lake all bluely dash'd
Through the serene and placid glassy deep,
Which fain would lull its river-child to sleep.

LXXXVIII.

Now, when she once had ta'en an interest
In anything, however she might flatter
Herself that her intentions were the best,
Intense intentions are a dangerous matter;

* Hor. Epod. Od. ii. † [See Sheridan's "Critic."]

Impressions were much stronger than she guess'd, [water,
And gather'd as they ran, like growing
Upon her mind; the more so, as her breast
Was not at first too readily impress'd.

LXXXIX.

But when it was, she had that lurking demon
Of double nature, and thus doubly named—
Firmness yclept in heroes, kings, and seamen,
That is, when they succeed; but greatly blamed,
As *obstinacy*, both in men and women,
Whene'er their triumph pales, or star is tamed:—
And 'twill perplex the casuist in morality, [ity.
To fix the due bounds of this dangerous qual-

XC.

Had Buonaparte won at Waterloo,
It had been firmness; now 'tis pertinacity:
Must the event decide between the two?
I leave it to your people of sagacity
To draw the line between the false and true,
If such can e'er be drawn by man's capacity:
My business is with Lady Adeline,
Who in her way, too, was a heroine.

XCI.

She knew not her own heart: then how should I?
I think not she was *then* in love with Juan:
If so, she would have had the strength to fly
The wild sensation, unto her a new one:
She merely felt a common sympathy
(I will not say it was a false or true one)
In him, because she thought he was in danger— [stranger.
Her husband's friend, her own, young, and a

XCII.

She was, or thought she was, his friend—and this
Without the farce of friendship or romance
Of Platonism, which leads so oft amiss[France
Ladies who have studied friendship but in
Or Germany, where people *purely* kiss.
To thus much Adeline would not advance;
But of such friendship as man's may to man be,
She was as capable as woman can be.

XCIII.

No doubt the secret influence of the sex
Will there, as also in the ties of blood,
An innocent predominance annex,
And tune the concord to a finer mood.
If free from passion, which all friendship checks,
And your true feelings fully understood,
No friend like to a woman earth discovers,
So that you have not been, nor will be, lovers.

XCIV.

Love bears within its breast the very germ
Of change: and how should this be otherwise?
That violent things more quickly find a term,
Is shown through nature's whole analogies;
And how should the most fierce of all be firm?
Would you have endless lightning in the skies?
Methinks Love's very title says enough:
How should the *tender* passion e'er be *tough*?

XCV.

Alas! by all experience, seldom yet
(I merely quote what I have heard from
Had lovers not some reason to regret [many)
The passion which made Solomon a zany.
I've also seen some wives (not to forget
The marriage state, the best or worst of any)
Who were the very paragons of wives,
Yet made the misery of at least two lives.

XCVI.

I've also seen some female *friends* ('tis odd,
But true—as, if expedient, I could prove)
That faithful were, through thick and thin, abroad,
At home, far more than ever yet was Love—
Who did not quit me when Oppression trod
Upon me; whom no scandal could remove;
Who fought, and fight, in absence, too, my battles,
Despite the snake Society's loud rattles.

XCVII.

Whether Don Juan and chaste Adeline
Grew friends in this or any other sense,
Will be discuss'd hereafter, I opine:
At present I am glad of a pretence
To leave them hovering, as the effect is fine,
And keeps the atrocious reader in *suspense;*
The surest way for ladies and for books,
To bait their tender or their tenter hooks.

XCVIII.

Whether they rode, or walk'd, or studied Spanish,
To read Don Quixote in the original,
A pleasure before which all others vanish,
Whether their talk was of the kind call'd "small,"
Or serious, are the topics I must banish
To the next canto; where perhaps I shall
Say something to the purpose, and display
Considerable talent in my way.

XCIX.

Above all, I beg all men to forbear
Anticipating aught about the matter:
They'll only make mistakes about the fair,
And Juan too, especially the latter.
And I shall take a much more serious air
Than I have yet done in this epic satire.
It is not clear that Adeline and Juan
Will fall; but if they do, 'twill be their ruin.

C.

But great things spring from little:—would you think
That, in our youth, as dangerous a passion

As e'er brought man and woman to the brink
Of ruin, rose from such a slight occasion,
As few would ever dream could form the link
Of such a sentimental situation?
You'll never guess, I'll bet you millions, milliards. [liards.
It all sprung from a harmless game at bil-

CI.

'Tis strange,—but true: for truth is always strange;
Stranger than fiction: if it could be told,
How much would novels gain by the exchange!
How differently the world would men behold;
How oft would vice and virtue places change!
The new world would be nothing to the old,
If some Columbus of the moral seas
Would show mankind their souls' antipodes.

CII.

What "antres vast and deserts idle" then
Would be discover'd in the human soul!
What icebergs in the hearts of mighty men,
With self-love in the centre as their pole:
What Anthropophagi are nine of ten
Of those who hold the kingdom in control!
Were things but only call'd by their right name,
Cæsar himself would be ashamed of fame.

CANTO THE FIFTEENTH.

1824.

I.

Ah!—What should follow slips from my reflec- Whatever follows ne'ertheless may be [tion:
As *à propos* of hope or retrospection,
As though the lurking thought had follow'd
All present life is but an interjection, [free.
An "Oh!" or "Ah!" of joy or misery,
Or a "Ha! ha!" or "Bah!"—a yawn, or "Pooh!"
Of which perhaps the latter is most true.

II.

But more or less, the whole's a syncopé
Or a *singultus*—emblems of emotion,
That grand antithesis to great *ennui*,
Wherewith we break our bubbles on the
That watery outline of eternity, [ocean,
Or miniature, at least, as is my notion,
Which ministers unto the soul's delight,
In seeing matters which are out of sight.

III.

But all are better than the sigh suppress,
Corroding in the cavern of the heart,
Making the countenance a mask of rest,
And turning human nature to an art.
Few men dare show their thoughts of worst
Dissimulation always sets apart [or best:
A corner for herself; and therefore fiction
Is that which passes with least contradiction.

IV.

Ah! who can tell? Or rather who cannot
Remember, without telling, passion's errors?
The drainer of oblivion, even the sot,
Hath got blue devils for his morning mirrors: [float,
What though on Lethe's stream he seem to
He cannot sink his tremors or his terrors:
The ruby glass that shakes within his hand,
Leaves a sad sediment of Time's worst sand.

V.

And as for love—Oh love!——We will pro- The Lady Adeline Amundeville, [ceed.
A pretty name as one would wish to read,
Must perch harmonious on my tuneful quill.
There's music in the sighing of a reed;
There's music in the gushing of a rill;
There's music in all things, if men had ears:
Their earth is but an echo of the spheres.

VI.

The Lady Adeline, right honorable,
And honor'd, ran a risk of growing less so:
For few of the soft sex are very stable
In their resolves—alas, that I should say so!
They differ as wine differs from its label, [so,
When once decanted;—I presume to guess
But will not swear: yet both, upon occasion,
Till old, may undergo adulteration.

VII.

But Adeline was of the purest vintage,
The unmingled essence of the grape; and yet
Bright as a new Napoleon from its mintage,
Or glorious as a diamond richly set; [age,
A page where Time should hesitate to print
And for which Nature might forego her debt—
Sole creditor whose process doth involve in't
The luck of finding everybody solvent.

VIII.

Oh Death! thou dunnest of all duns! thou daily
Knockest at doors, at first with modest tap,
Like a meek tradesman when approaching palely
Some splendid debtor he would take by sap;
But oft denied, as patience 'gins to fail, he
Advances with exasperated rap,
And (if let in) insists, in terms unhandsome,
On ready money, or "a draft on Ransom."

IX.

Whate'er thou takest, spare awhile poor Beauty!
She is so rare, and thou hast so much prey.
What though she now and then may slip from duty? [stay.
The more's the reason why you ought to

Gaunt Gourmand! with whole nations for your booty,
You should be civil in a modest way;
Suppress, then, some slight feminine diseases;
And take as many heroes as Heaven pleases.

X.

Fair Adeline, the more ingenuous
Where she was interested (as was said),
Because she was not apt, like some of us,
To like too readily, or too high bred
To show it (points we need not now discuss),—
Would give up artlessly both heart and head
Unto such feelings as seem'd innocent,
For objects worthy of the sentiment.

XI.

Some parts of Juan's history, which Rumor,
That live-gazette, had scatter'd to disfigure,
She had heard; but women hear with more good humor
Such aberrations, than we men of rigor:
Besides, his conduct since in England grew more [or:
Strict, and his mind assumed a manlier vig-
Because he had, like Alcibiades,
The art of living in all climes with ease.

XII.

His manner was perhaps the more seductive,
Because he ne'er seem'd anxious to seduce:
Nothing affected, studied, or constructive,
Of coxcombry or conquest; no abuse
Of his attractions marr'd the fair perspective,
To indicate a Cupidon broke loose,
And seem to say, "Resist us if you can"—
Which makes a dandy, while it spoils a man.

XIII.

They are wrong—that's not the way to set about it; [shown.
As, if they told the truth, could well be
But, right or wrong, Don Juan was without it:
In fact, his manner was his own alone.
Sincere he was—at least you could not doubt
In listening merely to his voice's tone. [it,
The devil hath not, in all his quiver's choice,
An arrow for the heart like a sweet voice.

XIV.

By nature soft, his whole address held off
Suspicion: though not timid, his regard
Was such as rather seem'd to keep aloof,
To shield himself, than put you on your guard:
Perhaps 'twas hardly quite assured enough,
But modesty's at times its own reward,
Like virtue; and the absence of pretension
Will go much further than there's need to mention.

XV.

Serene, accomplish'd, cheerful, but not loud;
Insinuating, without insinuation;
Observant of the foibles of the crowd,
Yet ne'er betraying this in conversation;
Proud with the proud, yet courteously proud,
So as to make them feel he knew his station
And theirs:—without a struggle for priority
He neither brook'd nor claim'd superiority—

XVI.

That is, with men: with women he was what
They pleased to make or take him for; and
Imagination's quite enough for that; [their
So that the outline's tolerably fair,
They fill the canvas up—and *verbum sat.*
If once their phantasies be brought to bear
Upon an object, whether sad or playful,
They can transfigure brighter than a Raphael.

XVII.

Adeline, no deep judge of character,
Was apt to add a coloring from her own:
'Tis thus the good will amiably err,
And eke the wise, as has been often shown.
Experience is the chief philosopher,
But saddest when his science is well known:
And persecuted sages teach the schools
Their folly in forgetting there are fools.

XVIII.

Was it not so, great Locke? and greater Bacon?
Great Socrates? And Thou, Diviner still,*
Whose lot it is by man to be mistaken,
And Thy pure creed made sanction of all ill?
Redeeming worlds to be by bigots shaken,
How was Thy toil rewarded? We might fill
Volumes with similar sad illustrations, [tions.
But leave them to the conscience of the na--

XIX.

I perch upon an humbler promontory,
Amidst life's infinite variety:
With no great care for what is nicknamed glory,
But speculating as I cast mine eye [glory,
On what may suit, or may not suit, my story,
And never straining hard to versify,
I rattle on exactly as I'd talk
With anybody in a ride or walk.

XX.

I don't know that there may be much ability
Shown in this sort of desultory rhyme;
But there's a conversational facility,
Which may round off an hour upon a time.
Of this I'm sure, at least there's no servility
In mine irregularity of chime,
Which rings what's uppermost of new or hoary,
Just as I feel the *Improvisatore.*

XXI.

"Omnia vult *belle* Matho dicere—dic aliquando

* As it is necessary in these times to avoid ambiguity, I say that I mean by "Diviner still," Christ. If ever God was man,—or man God,—He was both. I never arraigned His creed, but the use, or abuse, made of it. Mr. Canning one day quoted Christianity to sanction negro slavery, and Mr. Wilberforce had little to say in reply. And was Christ crucified that black men might be scourged? If so, He had better been born a Mulatto, to give both colors an equal chance of freedom, or at least salvation.

Et *bene*, dic *neutrum*, dic aliquando *male*." *
The first is rather more than mortal can do;
The second may be sadly done or gaily:
The third is still more difficult to stand to;
The fourth we hear, and see, and say to daily:
The whole together is what I could wish
To serve in this conundrum of a dish.

XXII.

A modest hope—but modesty's my *forte*,
And pride my foible: let us ramble on.
I meant to make this poem very short;
But now I can't tell where it may not run.
No doubt if I had wish'd to pay my court
To critics, or to hail the *setting* sun
Of tyranny of all kinds, my concision
Were more, but I was born for opposition.

XXIII.

But then 'tis mostly on the weaker side,
So that I verily believe, if they [pride
Who now are basking in their full-blown
Were shaken down, and "dogs had had their day."
Though at the first I might perchance deride
Their tumble, I should turn the other way,
And wax an ultra-royalist in loyalty,
Because I hate even democratic royalty.

XXIV.

I think I should have made a decent spouse,
If I had never proved the soft condition:
I think I should have made monastic vows,
But for my own peculiar superstition:
'Gainst rhyme I never should have knock'd my brows, [cian,
Nor broken my own head, nor that of Pris-
Nor worn the motley mantle of a poet,
If some one had not told me to forego it.

XXV.

But *laissez aller*—knights and dames I sing,
Such as the times may furnish. 'Tis a flight
Which seems at first to need no lofty wing,
Plumed by Longinus or the Stagyrite.
The difficulty lies in coloring
(Keeping the due proportions still in sight)
With nature, manners which are artificial,
And rendering general that which is especial.

XXVI.

The difference is, that in the days of old,
Men made the manners: manners now make men— [fold,
Pinn'd like a flock, and fleeced too in their
At least nine, and a ninth beside of ten.
Now this at all events must render cold
Your writers, who must either draw again
Days better drawn before, or else assume
The present, with their commonplace costume.

* [Thou finely would'st say all!
Say something well:
Say something ill if thou
Wouldst bear the bell.
ELPHINSTON.]

XXVII.

We'll do our best to make the best on't:—
March! [ter;
March, my Muse! if you cannot fly, yet flut-
And when you may not be sublime, be arch,
Or starch, as are the edicts statesmen utter.
We surely may find something worth research:
Columbus found a new world in a cutter,
Or brigantine, or pink, of no great tonnage,
While yet America was in her nonage.

XXVIII.

When Adeline, in all her growing sense
Of Juan's merits and his situation,
Felt on the whole an interest intense—
Partly perhaps because a fresh sensation,
Or that he had an air of innocence,
Which is for innocence a sad temptation—
As women hate half measures, on the whole,
She 'gan to ponder how to save his soul.

XXIX.

She had a good opinion of advice,
Like all who give and eke receive it gratis,
For which small thanks are still the market price,
Even where the article at highest rate is.
She thought upon the subject twice or thrice,
And morally decided the best state is,
For morals, marriage; and this question car-
She seriously advised him to get married. [ried,

XXX.

Juan replied, with all becoming deference,
He had a predilection for that tie;
But that at present, with immediate reference
To his own circumstances, there might lie
Some difficulties, as in his own preference,
Or that of her to whom he might apply;
That still he'd wed with such and such a lady,
If that they were not married all already.

XXXI.

Next to the making matches for herself, [kin,
And daughters, brothers, sisters, kith or
Arranging them like books on the same shelf,
There's nothing women love to dabble in
More (like a stockholder in growing pelf)
Than matchmaking in general: 'tis no sin,
Certes, but a preventative, and therefore
That is, no doubt, the only reason wherefore.

XXXII.

But never yet (except of course a miss
Unwed, or mistress never to be wed,
Or wed already, who object to this) [head,
Was there chaste dame who had not, in her
Some drama of the marriage unities,
Observed as strictly, both at board and bed,
As those of Aristotle, though sometimes
They turn out melodrames or pantomimes.

XXXIII.

They generally have some only son,
Some heir to a large property, some friend
Of an old family, some gay Sir John,

Or grave Lord George, with whom perhaps might end
A line, and leave posterity undone,
Unless a marriage was applied to mend
The prospect and their morals, and, besides,
They have at hand a blooming glut of brides.

XXXIV.

From these they will be careful to select,
For this an heiress, and for that a beauty:
For one, a songstress who hath no defect;
For t'other, one who promises much duty:
For this, a lady no one can reject, [booty;
Whose sole accomplishments were quite a
A second for her excellent connections;
A third because there can be no objections.

XXXV.

When Rapp the Harmonist embargoed marriage [ishes
In his harmonious settlement* (which flour-
Strangely enough as yet without miscarriage,
Because it breeds no more mouths than it nourishes,
Without those sad expenses which disparage
What Nature naturally most encourages),
Why call'd he "Harmony" a state *sans* wedlock?
Now here I've got the preacher at a dead lock.

XXXVI.

Because he either meant to sneer at harmony
Or marriage, by divorcing them thus oddly;
But whether reverend Rapp learn'd this in Germany
Or not, 'tis said his sect is rich and godly,
Pious and pure, beyond what I can term any
Of ours, although they propagate more broadly.
My objection's to his title, not his ritual,
Although I wonder how it grew habitual.

XXXVII.

But Rapp is the reverse of zealous matrons,
Who favor, *malgré* Malthus, generation—
Professors of that genial art, and patrons
Of all the modest part of propagation;
Which, after all, at such a desperate rate runs,
That half its produce tends to emigration,
That sad result of passions and potatoes—
Two words which pose our economic Catos.

XXXVIII.

Had Adeline read Malthus? I can't tell:
I wish she had; his book's the eleventh commandment, [*well;*
Which says, "Thou shalt not marry," unless
This he (as far as I can understand) meant.

'Tis not my purpose on his views to dwell,
Nor canvass what "so eminent a hand"*
But certes it conducts to lives ascetic, [meant;
Or turning marriage into arithmetic.

XXXIX.

But Adeline, who probably presumed
That Juan had enough of maintenance,
Or *separate* maintenance, in case 'twas doom'd—
As on the whole it is an even chance
That bridegrooms, after they are fairly *groom'd*
May retrograde a little in the dance
Of marriage—which might form a painter's fame, [the same:
Like Holbein's "Dance of Death"—but 'tis

XL.

But Adeline determined Juan's wedding
In her own mind, and that's enough for woman: [Miss Reading,
But then with whom? There was the sage
Miss Raw, Miss Flaw, Miss Showman, and Miss Knowman,
And the two fair co-heiresses Giltbedding.
She deem'd his merits something more than common:
All these were unobjectionable matches,
And might go on, if well wound up, like watches.

XLI.

There was Miss Millpond, smooth as summer's sea,
That usual paragon, an only daughter,
Who seem'd the cream of equanimity,
Till skimm'd—and then there was some milk and water,
With a slight shade of blue, too, it might be,
Beneath the surface; but what did it matter?
Love's riotous, but marriage should have quiet,
And, being consumptive, live on a milk diet.

XLII.

And then there was the Miss Audacia Shoestring,
A dashing demoiselle of good estate,
Whose heart was fixed upon a star or blue string; [late,
But whether English dukes grew rare of
Or that she had not harp'd upon the true string
By which such sirens can attract our great,
She took up with some foreign younger brother,
A Russ or Turk—the one's as good as t'other.

XLIII.

And then there was—but why should I go on,
Unless the ladies should go off?—there was
Indeed a certain fair and fairy one, [class—
Of the best class, and better than her
Aurora Raby, a young star who shone
O'er life, too sweet an image for such glass;

* This extraordinary and flourishing German colony in America does not entirely exclude matrimony, as the "Shakers" do, but lays such restrictions upon it as prevent more than a certain quantum of births within a certain number of years; which births (as Mr. Hulme observes) "generally arrive in a little flock like those of a farmer's lambs, all within the same month perhaps." These Harmonists (so called from the name of their settlement) are represented as a remarkably flourishing, pious, and quiet people. See the various recent writers on America.

* Jacob Tonson, according to Mr. Pope, was accustomed to call his writers "able pens," "persons of honor," and especially "eminent hands." Vide Correspondence, etc.

A lovely being, scarcely form'd or moulded,
A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded;

XLIV.

Rich, noble, but an orphan; left an only
Child to the care of guardians good and
But still her aspect had an air so lonely! [kind;
Blood is not water; and where shall we find
Feelings of youth like those which overthrown
By death, when we are left, alas! behind, [lie
To feel in friendless palaces, a home
Is wanting, and our best ties in the tomb?

XLV.

Early in years, and yet more infantine
In figure, she had something of sublime
In eyes, which sadly shone, as seraphs' shine:
All youth—but with an aspect beyond time:
Radiant and grave—as pitying man's decline;
Mournful—but mournful of another's crime;
She look'd as if she sat by Eden's door, [more.
And grieved for those who could return no

XLVI.

She was a Catholic, too, sincere, austere,
As far as her own gentle heart allowed,
And deem'd that fallen worship far more dear,
Perhaps, because 'twas fallen: her sires were proud [ear
Of deeds and days, when they had fill'd the
Of nations, and had never bent or bow'd
To novel power; and as she was the last,
She held their old faith and old feelings fast.

XLVII.

She gazed upon a world she scarcely knew,
As seeking not to know it; silent, lone,
As grows a flower, thus quietly she grew,
And kept her heart serene within its zone.
There was awe in the homage which she drew:
Her spirit seem'd as seated on a throne
Apart from the surrounding world, and strong
In its own strength—most strange in one so young!

XLVIII.

Now it so happen'd, in the catalogue
Of Adeline, Aurora was omitted, [vogue,
Although her birth and wealth had given her
Beyond the charmers we've already cited:
Her beauty also seem'd to form no clog
Against her being mention'd as well fitted
By many virtues to be worth the trouble
Of single gentlemen, who would be double.

XLIX.

And this omission, like that of the bust
Of Brutus at the pageant of Tiberius,
Made Juan wonder, as no doubt he must.
This he express'd, half smiling and half serious;
When Adeline replied, with some disgust,
And with an air, to say the least, imperious,
She marvell'd "what he saw in such a baby,
As that prim, silent, cold Aurora Raby!"

L.

Juan rejoin'd,—"she was a Catholic,
And therefore fittest, as of his persuasion;
Since he was sure his mother would fall sick,
And the Pope thunder excommunication,
If——" But here Adeline, who seem'd to pique
Herself extremely on the inoculation
Of others with her own opinions, stated—
As usual—the same reason which she late did.

LI.

And wherefore not? A reasonable reason,
If good, is none the worse for repetition;
If bad, the best way's certainly to tease on,
And amplify: you lose much by concision!
Whereas insisting in or out of season
Convinces all men, even a politician;
Or—what is just the same—it wearies out:
So the end's gain'd, what signifies the route?

LII.

Why Adeline had this slight prejudice—
For prejudice it was—against a creature
As pure as sanctity itself from vice, [ture,
With all the added charm of form and fea-
For me appears a question far too nice,
Since Adeline was liberal by nature.
But nature's nature, and has more caprices
Than I have time, or will, to take to pieces.

LIII.

Perhaps she did not like the quiet way
With which Aurora on those baubles look'd,
Which charm most people in their earlier day:
For there are few things by mankind less brook'd,
And womankind too, if we so may say, [buked,
Than finding thus their genius stand re-
Like "Antony's by Cæsar," by the few
Who look upon them as they ought to do.

LIV.

It was not envy—Adeline had none;
Her place was far beyond it, and her mind:
It was not scorn—which could not light on one [find:
Whose greatest *fault* was leaving few to
It was not jealousy, I think; but shun
Following the *ignes fatui* of mankind:
It was not—— But 'tis easier far, alas!
To say what it was not than what it was.

LV.

Little Aurora deem'd she was the theme
Of such discussion. She was there a guest;
A beauteous ripple of the brilliant stream
Of rank and youth, though purer than the rest,
Which flow'd on for a moment in the beam
Time sheds a moment o'er each sparkling crest. [smiled—
Had she known this, she would have calmly
She had so much, or little, of the child.

LVI.

The dashing and proud air of Adeline
Imposed not upon her; she saw her blaze

Much as she would have seen a glow-worm shine,
Then turn'd unto the stars for loftier rays.
Juan was something she could not divine,
Being no sibyl in the new world's ways;
Yet she was nothing dazzled by the meteor,
Because she did not pin her faith on feature.

LVII.

His fame, too—for he had that kind of fame
Which sometimes plays the deuce with womankind,
A heterogeneous mass of glorious blame,
Half virtues and whole vices being combined; [tame;
Faults which attract because they are not
Follies trick'd out so brightly that they blind;—
These seals upon her wax made no impression,
Such was her coldness or her self-possession.

LVIII.

Juan knew nought of such a character—
High, yet resembling not his lost Haidée;
Yet each was radiant in her proper sphere.
The island girl, bred up by the lone sea,
More warm, as lovely, and not less sincere,
Was Nature's all: Aurora could not be,
Nor would be, thus:—the difference in them
Was such as lies between a flower and gem.

LIX.

Having wound up with this sublime comparison, [tive,
Methinks we may proceed upon our narra-
And, as my friend Scott says, "I sound my warison";
Scott, the superlative of my comparative—
Scott, who can paint your Christian knight or Saracen, [would share it, if
Serf, lord, man, with such skill as none
There had not been one Shakspeare and Voltaire,
Of one or both of whom he seems the heir.

LX.

I say, in my slight way I may proceed
To play upon the surface of humanity.
I write the world, nor care if the world read;
At least for this I cannot spare its vanity.
My muse hath bred, and still perhaps may breed, [gan it, I
More foes by this same scroll: when I be-
Thought that it might turn out so—*now* I *know*
But still I am, or was, a pretty poet. [it;

LXI.

The conference or congress (for it ended
As congresses of late do) of the Lady
Adeline and Don Juan rather blended [heady;
Some acids with the sweets—for she was
But here the matter could be marr'd or mended, [ready,"
The silvery bell rang, not for "dinner
But for that hour, call'd *half-hour*, given to dress, [less.
Though ladies' robes seem scant enough for

LXII.

Great things were now to be achieved at table;
With massy plate for armor, knives and forks
For weapons; but what Muse since Homer's able [works]
(His feasts are not the worst part of his)
To draw up in array a single day-bill
Of modern dinners, where more mystery
In soups or sauces, or a sole ragout, [lurks
Than witches, b—ches, or physicians brew?

LXIII.

There was a goodly *soupe à la bonne femme*,
Though God knows whence it came from; there was, too,
A turbot, for relief of those who cram,
Relieved with *dindon à la Perigeux;*
There also was——the sinner that I am!
How shall I get this gourmand stanza through?—
Soupe à la Beauveau, whose relief was dory,
Relieved itself by pork, for greater glory.

LXIV.

But I must crowd all into one grand mess,
Or mass; for, should I stretch into detail,
My Muse would run much more into excess,
Than when some squeamish people deem her frail.
But though a *bonne vivante*, I must confess
Her stomach's not her peccant part: this tale,
However, doth require some slight reflection,
Just to relieve her spirits from dejection.

LXV.

Fowls *à la Condé*, slices eke of salmon, [son;
With *sauces Génévoises*, and haunch of venison—
Wines, too, which might again have slain young Ammon— [many soon,
A man like whom I hope we shan't see
They also set a glazed Westphalian ham on,
Whereon Apicius would bestow his benison:
And then there was champagne, with foaming whirls, [glass;
As white as Cleopatra's melted pearls.

LXVI.

Then there was God knows what *à l'Allemande*,
A l'Espagnole, *timballe* and *salpicon*—
With things I can't withstand or understand,
Though swallow'd with much zest, upon the
And *entremets* to piddle with, at hand, [whole;
Gently to lull down the subsiding soul;
While great Lucullus' * *robe triumphale* muffles— [with truffles.
(*There's fame*)—young partridge fillets, deck'd

* A dish a la Lucullus. This hero, who conquered the East, has left his more extended celebrity to the transplantation of cherries (which he first brought into Europe), and the nomenclature of some very good dishes; and I am not sure that (barring indigestion) he has not done more service to mankind by his cookery than by his conquests. A cherry-tree may weigh against a bloody laurel; besides, he has contrived to earn celebrity from both.

LXVII.

What are the *fillets* on the victor's brow
To these? They are rags or dust. Where is the arch
Which nodded to the nation's spoils below?
Where the triumphal chariot's haughty march?
Gone to where victories must, like dinners, go.
Further I shall not follow the research;
But oh! ye modern heroes, with your cartridges, [tridges?
When will your names lend lustre e'en to par-

LXVIII.

Those truffles, too, are no bad accessories.
Follow'd by *petits puits d'amour* *—a dish
Of which perhaps the cookery rather varies;
So every one may dress it to his wish,
According to the best of dictionaries,
Which encyclopedize both flesh and fish;
But even *sans confitures*, it no less true is
There's pretty picking in those *petits puits*.

LXIX.

The mind is lost in mighty contemplation
Of intellect, expanded on two courses;
And indigestion's grand multiplication
Requires arithmetic beyond my forces.
Who would suppose, from Adam's simple ration, [resources
The cookery could have call'd forth such
As form a science and a nomenclature
From out the commonest demands of nature?

LXX.

The glasses jingled, and the palates tingled;
The diners of celebrity dined well;
The ladies with more moderation mingled
In the feast, pecking less than I can tell.
Also the younger men, too; for a springald
Can't, like ripe age, in gourmandize excel;
But thinks less of good eating than the whisper
(When seated next him) of some pretty lisper.

LXXI.

Alas! I must leave undescribed the *gibier*,
The *salmi*, the *consommé*, the *purée*, [ber,
All which I use to make my rhymes run glib-
Than could roast beef in our rough John Bull way:
I must not introduce even a spare-rib here:
—"Bubble and squeak" would spoil my liquid lay;
But I have dined, and must forego, alas,
The chaste description even of a *bécasse*,

LXXII.

And fruits, and ice, and all that art refines
From nature, for the service of the *gout*—
Taste or the *gout*—pronounce it as inclines
Your stomach: ere you dine, the French will do;
But *after*, there are sometimes certain signs
Which prove plain English truer of the two.
Hast ever *had* the *gout*? I have not had it—
But I may have; and you, too, reader, dread it.

LXXIII.

The simple olives, best allies of wine,
Must I pass over in my bill of fare?
I must, although a favorite *plat* of mine
In Spain, and Lucca, Athens, everywhere.
On them and bread 'twas oft my luck to dine;
The grass my table-cloth, in open air,
On Sunium or Hymettus, like Diogenes,
On whom half my philosophy the progeny is.

LXXIV.

Amidst this tumult of fish, flesh, and fowl,
And vegetables, all in masquerade,
The guests were placed according to their roll;
But various as the various meats display'd:
Don Juan sat next an *à l'Espagnole*—
No damsel, but a dish, as hath been said;
But so far like a lady, that 'twas drest
Superbly, and contain'd a world of zest.

LXXV.

By some odd chance, too, he was placed be- [tween
Aurora and the Lady Adeline—
A situation difficult, I ween, [dine.
For man therein, with eyes and heart, to
Also the conference which we have seen,
Was not such as to encourage him to shine;
For Adeline, addressing few words to him,
With two transcendent eyes seem'd to look through him.

LXXVI.

I sometimes almost think that eyes have ears:
This much is sure, that, out of earshot, things
Are somehow echoed to the pretty dears,
Of which I can't tell whence their knowledge springs;
Like that same mystic music of the spheres,
Which no one hears, so loudly though it rings,
'Tis wonderful how oft the sex have heard
Long dialogues—which pass'd without a word!

LXXVII.

Aurora sat with that indifference [ought:
Which piques a *preux chevalier*—as it
Of all offences, that's the worst offence,
Which seems to hint you are not worth a thought.
Now Juan, though no coxcomb in pretence,
Was not exactly pleased to be so caught,
Like a good ship entangled among ice,
And after so much excellent advice.

LXXVIII.

To his gay nothings nothing was replied,
Or something which was nothing, as urban- [ity
Required. Aurora scarcely look'd aside,
Nor even smiled enough for any vanity.
The devil was in the girl! Could it be pride?
Or modesty, or absence, or inanity?
Heaven knows! But Adeline's malicious eyes
Sparkled with her successful prophecies,

* Petits puits d'amour garnis des confitures, a classical and well-known dish for part of the flank of a second course.

LXXIX.

And look'd as much as if to say, "I said it";
A kind of triumph I'll not recommend,
Because it sometimes, as I've seen or read it,
Both in the case of lover and of friend,
Will pique a gentleman, for his own credit,
To bring what was a jest to a serious end:
For all men prophesy what *is* or *was*, [pass.
And hate those who won't let them come to

LXXX.

Juan was drawn thus into some attentions,
Slight, but select, and just enough to express,
To females of conspicuous comprehensions,
That he would rather make them more than less.
Aurora, at the last (so history mentions,
Though probably much less a fact than guess), [prison,
So far relax'd her thoughts from their sweet
As once or twice to smile, if not to listen.

LXXXI.

From answering, she began to question: this
With her was rare; and Adeline, who as yet
Thought her predictions went not much amiss,
Began to dread she'd thaw to a coquette—
So very difficult, they say, it is [set
To keep extremes from meeting, when once
In motion; but she here too much refined—
Aurora's spirit was not of that kind.

LXXXII.

But Juan had a sort of winning way,
A proud humility, if such there be, [say,
Which show'd such deference to what females
As if each charming word were a decree.
His tact, too, temper'd him from grave to gay,
And taught him when to be reserved or free:
He had the art of drawing people out,
Without their seeing what he was about.

LXXXIII.

Aurora, who, in her indifference,
Confounded him in common with the crowd
Of flatterers, though she deem'd he had more sense [loud,—
Than whispering foplings, or than witling
Commenced (from such slight things will great commence)
To feel that flattery which attracts the proud
Rather by deference than compliment,
And wins even by a delicate dissent.

LXXXIV.

And then he had good looks;—that point was carried
Nem. con. amongst the women, which I grieve [ried—
To say leads oft to *crim. con.* with the mar-
A case which to the juries we may leave,
Since with digressions we too long have tarried. [ceive,
Now, though we know of old that looks de-
And always have done, somehow these good looks
Make more impressions than the best of books.

LXXXV.

Aurora, who look'd more on books than faces,
Was very young, although so very sage,
Admiring more Minerva than the Graces,
Especially upon a printed page.
But Virtue's self, with all her tightest laces,
Has not the natural stays of strict old age:
And Socrates, that model of all duty, [beauty,
Own'd to a *penchant*, though discreet, for

LXXXVI.

And girls of sixteen are thus far Socratic,
But innocently so, as Socrates:
And really, if the sage sublime and Attic
At seventy years had phantasies like these,
Which Plato in his dialogues dramatic
Has shown, I know not why they should displease
In virgins—always in a modest way, [please
Observe; for that with me's a *sine qua.**

LXXXVII.

Also observe that, like the great Lord Coke
(See Littleton), whene'er I have express'd
Opinions two, which at first sight may look
Twin opposites, the second is the best.
Perhaps I have a third, too, in a nook,
Or none at all—which seems a sorry jest;
But if a writer should be quite consistent,
How could he possibly show things existent?

LXXXVIII.

If people contradict themselves, can I
Help contradicting them, and everybody,
Even my veracious self?—But that's a lie:
I never did so, never will—how should I?
He who doubts all things, nothing can deny:
Truth's fountains may be clear—her [tion,
streams are muddy,
And cut through such canals of contradic-
That she must often navigate o'er fiction.

LXXXIX.

Apologue, fable, poesy, and parable
Are false, but may be render'd also true,
By those who sow them in a land that's arable.
'Tis wonderful what fable will not do!
'Tis said it makes reality more bearable;
But what's reality? Who has its clue?
Philosophy? No: she too much rejects.
Religion? *Yes;* but which of all her sects?

XC.

Some millions must be wrong, that's pretty clear:
Perhaps it may turn out that all were right.
God help us! Since we've need, on our career,
To keep our holy beacons always bright,
'Tis time that some new prophet should appear,
Or old indulge man with a second sight.
Opinions wear out in some thousand years,
Without a small refreshment from the spheres.

XCI.

But here again, why will I thus entangle
Myself with metaphysics? None can hate

* Subauditur "non," omitted for the sake of euphony.

So much as I do any kind of wrangle;
And yet, such is my folly or my fate,
I always knock my head against some angle,
About the present, past, or future state;
Yet I wish well to Trojan and to Tyrian,
For I was bred a moderate Presbyterian.

XCII.

But though I am a temperate theologian,
And also meek as a metaphysician,
Impartial between Tyrian and Trojan,
As Eldon on a lunatic commission,
In politics my duty is to show John [dition.
Bull something of the lower world's con-
It makes my blood boil like the springs of
Hecla [break law.
To see men let these scoundrel sovereigns

XCIII.

But politics, and policy, and piety,
Are topics which I sometimes introduce,
Not only for the sake of their variety,
But as subservient to a moral use;
Because my business is to *dress* society,
And stuff with *sage* that very verdant goose;
And now, that we may furnish with some matter all
Tastes, we are going to try the supernatural.

XCIV.

And now I will give up all argument;
And positively henceforth no temptation
Shall "fool me to the top up of my bent."*
Yes, I'll begin a thorough reformation.
Indeed, I never knew what people meant,
By dreaming that my Muse's conversation
Was dangerous: I think she is as harmless
As some who labor more, and yet may charm less.

XCV.

Grim reader! did you ever see a ghost? [dumb!
No; but you've heard—I understand—be
And don't forget the time you may have lost,
For you have got that pleasure still to come;
And do not think I mean to sneer at most
Of these things, or by ridicule benumb
That source of the sublime and the mysterious:—
For certain reasons, my belief is serious.

* Hamlet, act iii. scene 2.

XCVI.

Serious? You laugh—you may: that will I not.
My smiles must be sincere or not at all.
I say I do believe a haunted spot
Exists—and where? That shall I not recall,
Because I'd rather it should be forgot:
"Shadows the soul of Richard" may appal.
In short, upon that subject I've some qualms very
Like those of the philosopher of Malmsbury.†

XCVII.

The night—(I sing by night—sometimes an owl,
And now and then a nightingale)—is dim;
And the loud shriek of sage Minerva's fowl
Rattles around me her discordant hymn:
Old portraits from old walls upon me scowl—
I wish to heaven they would not look so grim;
The dying embers dwindle in the grate—
I think, too, that I have sate up too late:

XCVIII.

And therefore, though 'tis by no means my way
To rhyme at noon—when I have other things
To think of, if I ever think—I say
I feel some chilly midnight shudderings,
And prudently postpone until midday
Treating a topic which, alas, but brings
Shadows;—but you must be in my condition,
Before you learn to call this superstition.

XCIX.

Between two worlds life hovers like a star,
'Twixt night and morn, upon the horizon's verge.
How little do we know that which we are!
How less what we may be! The eternal surge
Of time and tide rolls on, and bears afar
Our bubbles: as the old burst, new emerge,
Lash'd from the foam of ages; while the graves
Of empires heave but like some passing waves.

† Hobbes, who, doubting of his own soul, paid that compliment to the souls of other people as to decline their visits, of which he had some apprehension.

CANTO THE SIXTEENTH.

1824.

I.

The antique Persians taught three useful things, [truth,*
To draw the bow, to ride, and speak the
This was the mode of Cyrus, best of kings—
A mode adopted since by modern youth.
Bows have they, generally with two strings:
Horses they ride without remorse or ruth:
At speaking truth perhaps they are less clever,
But draw the long bow better now than ever.

* Xenophon, "Cyrop."

II.

The cause of this effect, or this defect—
"For this effect defective comes by cause"†—
Is what I have not leisure to inspect;
But this I must say in my own applause,

† Hamlet, act ii. scene 2.

Of all the Muses that I recollect,
Whate'er may be her follies or her flaws
In some things, mine's beyond all contradiction
The most sincere that ever dealt in fiction.

III.

And as she treats all things, and ne'er retreats
From anything, this epic will contain
A wilderness of the most rare conceits, [vain.
Which you might elsewhere hope to find in
'Tis true there be some bitters with the sweets,
Yet mix'd so slightly that you can't complain,
But wonder they so few are, since my tale is
"*De rebus cunctis et quibusdam aliis.*"

IV.

But of all truths which she has told, the most
True is that which she is about to tell.
I said it was a story of a ghost—
What then? I only know it so befell.
Have you explored the limits of the coast,
Where all the dwellers of the earth must dwell? [as
'Tis time to strike such puny doubters dumb
The sceptics who would not believe Columbus.

V.

Some people would impose now with authority,
Turpin's or Monmouth Geoffry's Chronicle;
Men whose historical superiority
Is always greatest at a miracle.
But Saint Augustine has the great priority,
Who bids all men believe the impossible,
Because 'tis so. Who nibble, scribble, quibble,
Quiets at once with "*quia* impossible." [he

VI.

And therefore, mortals, cavil not at all:
Believe:—if 'tis improbable, you must;
And if it is impossible, you *shall:*
'Tis always best to take things upon trust.
I do not speak profanely, to recall [just
Those holier mysteries which the wise and
Receive as gospel, and which grow more rooted,
As all truths must, the more they are disputed.

VII.

I merely mean to say what Johnson said,
That, in the course of some six thousand years
All nations have believed that, from the dead,
A visitant at intervals appears,
And what is strangest upon this strange head,
Is that, whatever bar the reason rears
'Gainst such belief, there's something stronger
In its behalf, let those deny who will. [still

VIII.

The dinner and the soirée, too, were done:
The supper, too, discuss'd, the dames admired:
The banqueteers had dropp'd off one by one—
The song was silent and the dance expired;
The last thin petticoats were vanish'd, gone
Like fleecy clouds into the sky retired,
And nothing brighter gleamed through the saloon,
Than dying tapers—and the peeping moon.

IX.

The evaporation of a joyous day
Is like the last glass of champagne, without
The foam which made its virgin bumper gay;
Or like a system coupled with a doubt;
Or like a soda bottle, when its spray
Has sparkled and let half its spirit out;
Or like a billow, left by storms behind,
Without the animation of the wind;

X.

Or like an opiate, which brings troubled rest,
Or none; or like—like nothing that I know,
Except itself;—such is the human breast:
A thing, of which similitudes can show
No real likeness,—like the old Tyrian vest
Dyed purple,* none at present can tell how,
If from a shell-fish or from cochineal.
So perish every tyrant's robe, piecemeal!

XI.

But next to dressing for a rout or ball,
Undressing is a woe: our *robe de chambre*
May sit like that of Nessus, and recall [amber.
Thoughts quite as yellow, but less clear than
Titus exclaim'd, "I've lost a day!" Of all
The nights and days most people can remember
(I've had of both, some not to be disdain'd),
I wish they'd state how many they have gain'd.

XII.

And Juan, on retiring for the night, [ed:
Felt restless, and perplex'd, and compromis-
He thought Aurora Raby's eyes more bright
Than Adeline (such is advice) advised;
If he had known exactly his own plight,
He probably would have philosophized;
A great resource to all, and ne'er denied
Till wanted: therefore Juan only sigh'd.

XIII.

He sigh'd:—The next resource is the full moon,
Where all sighs are deposited; and now,
It happen'd, luckily, the chaste orb shone
As clear as such a climate will allow!
And Juan's mind was in the proper tone
To hail her with the apostrophe—"O thou!"
Of amatory egotism the *Tuism,*
Which further to explain would be a truism.

XIV.

But lover, poet, or astronomer,
Shepherd or swain, whoever may behold,
Feel some abstraction when they gaze on her:

* The composition of the old Tyrian purple, whether from a shell-fish or from cochineal, or from kermes, is still an article of dispute: and even its color—some say purple, others scarlet; I say nothing.

Great thoughts we catch from thence (besides a cold
Sometimes, unless my feelings rather err):
Deep secrets to her rolling light are told:
The ocean's tides and mortal's brains she sways,
And also hearts, if there be truth in lays.

XV.

Juan felt somewhat pensive, and disposed
For contemplation rather than his pillow:
The Gothic chamber, where he was enclosed,
Let in the rippling sound of the lake's billow,
With all the mystery by midnight caused:
Below his window waved (of course) a willow;
And he stood gazing out on the cascade
That flash'd, and after darken'd in the shade.

XVI.

Upon his table or his toilet—*which*
Of these is not exactly ascertain'd
(I state this, for I am cautious to a pitch
Of nicety, where a fact is to be gain'd)—
A lamp burn'd high, while he leant from a niche,
Where many a Gothic ornament remain'd,
In chisell'd stone and painted glass, and all
That time has left our fathers of their hall.

XVII.

Then, as the night was clear, though cold, he threw
His chamber door wide open—and went forth
Into a gallery of sombre hue,
Long furnish'd with old pictures of great worth,
Of knights and dames, heroic and chaste too,
As doubtless should be people of high birth;
But, by dim lights, the portraits of the dead
Have something ghastly, desolate, and dread.

XVIII.

The forms of the grim knight and pictured saint
Look living in the moon; and as you turn
Backward and forward to the echoes faint
Of your own footsteps, voices from the urn
Appear to wake, and shadows wild and quaint
Start from the frames which fence their aspect stern,
As if to ask how you can dare to keep
A vigil there, where all but death should sleep.

XIX.

And the pale smile of beauties in the grave,
The charms of other days, in starlight gleams
Glimmer on high: their buried locks still wave
Along the canvas: their eyes glance like dreams
On ours, or spars within some dusky cave,
But death is imaged in their shadowy beams.
A picture is the past; even ere its frame
Be gilt, who sate hath ceased to be the same.

XX.

As Juan mused on mutability,
Or on his mistress—terms synonymous—
No sound except the echo of his sigh,
Or step, ran sadly through that antique house;
When suddenly he heard, or thought so, nigh,
A supernatural agent—or a mouse,
Whose little nibbling rustle will embarrass
Most people as it plays along the arras.

XXI.

It was no mouse, but lo! a monk, array'd
In cowl and beads, and dusky garb, appear'd
Now in the moonlight, and now lapsed in shade,
With steps that trod as heavy, yet unheard:
His garments only a slight murmur made;
He moved as shadowy as the sisters weird,
But slowly; and as he pass'd Juan by
Glanced, without pausing, on him a bright eye.

XXII.

Juan was petrified: he had heard a hint
Of such a spirit in these halls of old,
But thought, like most men, there was nothing in't
Beyond the rumor which such spots unfold,
Coin'd from surviving superstition's mint,
Which passes ghosts in currency like gold,
But rarely seen, like gold compared with paper:
And did he see this, or was it a vapor?

XXIII.

Once, twice, thrice, pass'd, repass'd—the thing of air,
Of earth beneath, or heaven, or t'other place;
And Juan gazed upon it with a stare,
Yet could not speak or move; but, on its base
As stands a statue, stood: he felt his hair
Twine like a knot of snakes around his face:
He tax'd his tongue for words, which were not granted,
To ask the reverend person what he wanted.

XXIV.

The third time, after a still longer pause,
The shadow pass'd away—but where? The hall
Was long, and thus far there was no great cause
To think his vanishing unnatural:
Doors there were many, through which, by the laws
Of physics, bodies, whether short or tall,
Might come or go; but Juan could not state
Through which the spectre seem'd to evaporate.

XXV.

He stood—how long he knew not, but it seem'd
An age—expectant, powerless, with his eyes
Strain'd on the spot where first the figure gleam'd;
Then by degrees recall'd his energies,
And would have pass'd the whole off as a dream,
But could not wake: he was, he did surmise,
Waking already, and return'd at length
Back to his chamber, shorn of half his strength.

XXVI.

All there was as he left it: still his taper
Burnt, and not *blue*, as modest tapers use,
Receiving sprites with sympathetic vapor;
He rubb'd his eyes, and they did not refuse
Their office; he took up an old newspaper:
The paper was right easy to peruse;
He read an article the king attacking,
And a long eulogy of "patent blacking."

XXVII.

This savor'd of this world: but his hand shook—
He shut his door, and, after having read
A paragraph, I think, about Horne Tooke,
Undrest, and rather slowly went to bed.
There, couch'd all snugly on his pillow's nook,
With what he'd seen his phantasy he fed;
And though it was no opiate, slumber crept
Upon him by degrees, and so he slept.

XXVIII.

He woke betimes; and, as may be supposed,
Ponder'd upon his visitant or vision,
And whether it ought not to be disclosed,
At risk of being quizz'd for superstition.
The more he thought, the more his mind was posed;
In the mean time, his valet, whose precision
Was great, because his master brook'd no less,
Knock'd to inform him it was time to dress.

XXIX.

He dress'd: and, like young people, he was wont
To take some trouble with his toilet, but
This morning rather spent less time upon't:
Aside his very mirror soon was put;
His curls fell negligently o'er his front; [cut;
His clothes were not curb'd to their usual
His very neckcloth's Gordian knot was tied
Almost an hair's breadth too much on one side.

XXX.

And when he walk'd down into the saloon,
He sate him pensive o'er a dish of tea,
Which he perhaps had not discover'd soon,
Had it not happen'd scalding hot to be,
Which made him have recourse unto his spoon.
So much distrait he was, that all could see
That something was the matter—Adeline
The first—but *what* she could not well divine.

XXXI.

She look'd, and saw him pale, and turn'd as pale [ter'd
Herself, then hastily look'd down and mut-
Something, but what's not stated in my tale.
Lord Henry said his muffin was ill-butter'd;
The Duchess of Fitz-Fulke play'd with her veil,
And look'd at Juan hard, but nothing ut-
Aurora Raby, with her large dark eyes, [ter'd.
Survey'd him with a kind of calm surprise.

XXXII.

But seeing him all cold and silent still,
And everybody wondering more or less,
Fair Adeline inquired "If he were ill?"
He started, and said, "Yes—no—rather—
The family physician had great skill, [yes!"
And, being present, now began to express
His readiness to feel his pulse and tell
The cause; but Juan said he was quite well.

XXXIII.

"Quite well; yes—no."—These answers were mysterious;
And yet his looks appear'd to sanction both,
However they might savor of delirious;
Something like illness of a sudden growth
Weigh'd on his spirit, though by no means serious:
But for the rest, as he himself seem'd loth
To state the cause, it might be ta'en for granted
It was not the physician that he wanted.

XXXIV.

Lord Henry, who had now discuss'd his chocolate,
Also the muffin whereof he complain'd,
Said Juan had not got his usual look elate,
At which he marvell'd, since it had not rain'd; [Duke of late.
Then ask'd her Grace what news were of the
Her Grace replied, *his* Grace was rather pain'd
With some slight, light, hereditary twinges
Of gout, which rusts aristocratic hinges.

XXXV.

Then Henry turn'd to Juan and address'd
A few words of condolence on his state:
"You look," quoth he, "as if you had had your rest
Broke in upon by the Black Friar of late."
"What Friar?" said Juan; and he did his best
To put the question with an air sedate,
Or careless; but the effort was not valid,
To hinder him from growing still more pallid.

XXXVI.

"Oh! have you never heard of the Black Friar, [not I."
The spirit of these walls?"—"In truth,
"Why, Fame—but Fame, you know, 's sometimes a liar—
Tells an odd story, of which by and by:
Whether with time the spectre has grown shyer,
Or that our sires had a more gifted eye
For such sights, though the tale is half believed,
The friar of late has not been oft perceived.

XXXVII.

"The last time was——" "I pray," said Adeline [brow,
(Who watch'd the changes of Don Juan's
And from its context thought she could divine
Connections, stronger than he chose to avow,
With this same legend), "if you but design
To jest, you'll choose some other theme just now:

Because the present tale has oft been told,
And is not much improved by growing old."

XXXVIII.

"Jest!" quoth Milord; "why, Adeline, you know [moon—
That we ourselves—'twas in the honey-
Saw——" "Well, no matter, 'twas so long ago!
But, come, I'll set your story to a tune."
Graceful as Dian when she draws her bow,
She seized her harp, whose strings were kindled soon
As touch'd, and plaintively began to play
The air of "'Twas a Friar of Orders Gray."

XXXIX.

"But add the words," cried Henry, "which you made:
For Adeline is half a poetess," [Turning round to the rest, he, smiling, said.
Of course the others could not but express
In courtesy their wish to see display'd [less—
By one, *three* talents, for there were no
The voice, the words, the harper's skill at once,
Could hardly be united by a dunce.

XL.

After some fascinating hesitation— [bound,
The charming of charmers, these who seem
I can't tell why, to this dissimulation—
Fair Adeline, with eyes fix'd on the ground
At first, then kindling into animation,
Added her sweet voice to the lyric sound,
And sang, with much simplicity,—a merit
Not the less precious, that we seldom hear it.

1.

Beware, beware of the Black Friar,
Who sitteth by Norman stone,
For he mutters his prayer in the midnight air,
And his mass of the days that are gone.
When the Lord of the Hill, Amundeville,
Made Norman church his prey,
And expell'd the friars, one friar still
Would not be driven away.

2.

Though he came in his might, with King
To turn church lands to lay, [Henry's right,
With sword in hand, and torch to light
Their walls, if they said nay,
A monk remain'd, unchased, unchain'd,
And he did not seem form'd of clay,
For he's seen in the porch, and he's seen in
Though he is not seen by day. [the church,

3.

And whether for good, or whether for ill,
It is not mine to say;
But still with the house of Amundeville
He abideth night and day.
By the marriage-bed of their lords, 'tis said,
He flits on the bridal eve:
And 'tis held as faith, to their bed of death
He comes—but not to grieve.

4.

When an heir is born, he's heard to mourn;
And when aught is to befall
That ancient line, in the pale moonshine
He walks from hall to hall.
His form you may trace, but not his face,
'Tis shadow'd by his cowl,
But his eyes may be seen from the folds be-
And they seem of a parted soul. [tween,

5.

But beware, beware of the Black Friar,
He still retains his sway;
For he is yet the church's heir,
Whoever may be the lay.
Amundeville is lord by day,
But the monk is lord by night;
Nor wine nor wassail could raise a vassal
To question that friar's right.

6.

Say nought to him as he walks the hall;
And he'll say nought to you:
He sweeps along in his dusky pall,
As o'er the grass the dew.
Then gramercy! for the Black Friar;
Heaven sain him! fair or foul:
And whatsoe'er may be his prayer
Let ours be for his soul.

XLI.

The lady's voice ceased, and the thrilling wires
Died from the touch that kindled them to sound; [expires,
And the pause follow'd, which, when song
Pervades a moment those who listen round;
And then, of course, the circle much admires,
Nor less applauds, as in politeness bound,
The tones, the feeling, and the execution,
To the performer's diffident confusion.

XLII.

Fair Adeline, though in a careless way,
As if she rated such accomplishment
As the mere pastime of an idle day,
Pursued an instant for her own content,
Would now and then, as 'twere *without* display,
Yet *with* display, in fact, at times relent
To such performances with haughty smile,
To show she *could*, if it were worth her while.

XLIII.

Now this (but we will whisper it aside)
Was—pardon the pedantic illustration—
Trampling on Plato's pride with greater pride,*
As did the Cynic on some like occasion:
Deeming the sage would be much mortified,
Or thrown into a philosophic passion,
For a spoilt carpet—but the "Attic Bee"
Was much consoled by his own repartee.

XLIV.

Thus Adeline would throw into the shade
(By doing easily, whene'er she chose,
What *dilettanti* do with vast parade)

* I think it was a carpet on which Diogenes trod with—"Thus I trample on the pride of Plato": but as carpets are meant to be trodden upon, my memory probably misgives me, and it ought to be a robe, or tapestry, or table-cloth, or some other expensive or uncynical piece of furniture.

Their sort of *half profession*, for it grows
To something like this when too oft display'd:
And that it is so, everybody knows,
Who have heard Miss That or This, or Lady T'other,
Show off—to please their company or mother.

XLV.

Oh the long evenings of duets and trios!
The admirations and the speculations:
The "*Mamma Mia's!*" and the "*Amor Mio's!*"
The "*Tanti palpiti's*" on such occasions:
The "*Lasciami's*" and quavering "*Addio's!*"
Amongst our own most musical of nations;
With "*Tu mi chamas's*" from Portingale,
To soothe our ears, lest Italy should fail.*

XLVI.

In Babylon's bravuras—as the home [lands,
Heart-ballads of Green Erin or Grey High-
That bring Lochaber back to eyes that roam
O'er far Atlantic continents or islands,
The calentures of music which o'ercome
All mountaineers with dreams that they are nigh lands
No more to be beheld but in such visions—
Was Adeline well versed, as compositions.

XLVII.

She also had a twilight tinge of "*Blue*,"
Could write rhymes, and compose more than
Made epigrams occasionally, too, [she wrote;
Upon her friends, as everybody ought.
But still, from that sublimer azure hue,
So much the present dye, she was remote;
Was weak enough to deem Pope a great poet,
And, what was worse, was not ashamed to show it.

XLVIII.

Aurora—since we are touching upon taste,
Which nowadays is the thermometer,
By whose degrees all characters are class'd—
Was more Shaksperian, if I do not err.
The worlds beyond this world's perplexing waste
Had more of her existence, for in her
There was a depth of feeling to embrace
Thoughts boundless, deep, but silent, too, as Space.

XLIX.

Not so her gracious, graceful, graceless Grace,
The full-grown Hebe of Fitz-Fulke, whose
If she had any, was upon her face, [mind,
And that was of a fascinating kind.
A little turn for mischief you might trace
Also thereon—but that's not much: we find
Few females without some such gentle leaven,
For fear we should suppose us quite in heaven.

L.

I have not heard she was at all poetic,
Though once she was seen reading the "Bath Guide," [pathetic,
And "Hayley's Triumphs," which she deem'd
Because she said *her temper* had been tried
So much, the bard had really been prophetic
Of what she had gone through with—since a bride.
But of all verse, what most ensured her praise
Were sonnets to herself, or *bouts rimés*.

LI.

'Twere difficult to say what was the object
Of Adeline, in bringing this same lay
To bear on what appear'd to her the subject
Of Juan's nervous feelings on that day:
Perhaps she merely had the simple project
To laugh him out of his supposed dismay;
Perhaps she might wish to confirm him in it,
Though why I cannot say—at least this minute.

LII.

But so far the immediate effect
Was to restore him to his self-propriety,
A thing quite necessary to the elect,
Who wish to take the tone of their society:
In which you cannot be too circumspect,
Whether the mode be persiflage or piety,
But wear the newest mantle of hypocrisy,
On pain of much displeasing the gynocracy.

LIII.

And therefore Juan now began to rally
His spirits, and, without more explanation,
To jest upon such themes in many a sally.
Her Grace, too, also seized the same occa-
With various similar remarks to tally, [sion,
But wish'd for a still more detail'd narration
Of this same mystic friar's curious doings,
About the present family's deaths and woo-ings.

LIV.

Of these, few could say more than has been said; [superstition
They pass'd, as such things do, for super-
With some; while others, who had more in dread
The theme, half credited the same tradition.
And much was talk'd on all sides on that head:
But Juan, when cross-question'd on the vision, [avow'd it)
Which some supposed (though he had not
Had stirr'd him, answer'd in a way to cloud it,

* I remember that the mayoress of a provincial town, somewhat surfeited with a similar display from foreign parts, did rather indecorously break through the applauses of an intelligent audience—intelligent, I mean, as to music,—for the words, besides being in recondite languages (it was some years before the peace, ere all the world had traveled, and while I was a collegian), were sorely disguised by the performers; this mayoress, I say, broke out with: "Rot your Italianos! for my part, I loves a simple ballat!" Rossini will go a good way to bring most people to the same opinion some day. Who would imagine that he was to be the successor of Mozart? However, I state this with diffidence, as a liege and loyal admirer of Italian music in general, and of much of Rossini's; but we may say, as the connoisseur did of the painting, in the "Vicar of Wakefield," "that the picture would be better painted if the painter had taken more pains."

LV.

And then, the mid-day having worn to one,
The company prepared to separate:
Some to their several pastimes, or to none,
Some wondering 'twas so early, some so late.
There was a goodly match, too, to be run
Between some greyhounds on my lord's estate,
And a young race-horse of old pedigree, [see.
Match'd for the spring, whom several went to

LVI.

There was a picture-dealer, who had brought
A special Titian warranted original,
So precious that it was not to be bought, [all,
Though princes the possessor were besieging
The king himself had cheapen'd it, but thought [all
The civil list he deigns to accept (obliging
His subjects by his gracious acceptation)
Too scanty, in these times of low taxation.

LVII.

But as Lord Henry was a connoisseur—
The friend of artists, if not arts—the owner,
With motives the most classical and pure,
So that he would have been the very donor
Rather than seller, had his wants been fewer,
So much he deem'd his patronage an honor,
Had brought the *capo d'opera*, not for sale,
But for his judgment—never known to fail.

LVIII.

There was a modern Goth, I mean a Gothic
Bricklayer of Babel, call'd an architect,
Brought to survey these gray walls, which, though so thick [defect,
Might have from time acquired some slight
Who, after rummaging the Abbey through thick
And thin, produced a plan whereby to erect
New buildings of correctest conformation,
And throw down old, which he call'd *restoration*.

LIX.

The cost would be a trifle—an "old song,"
Set to some thousands ('tis the usual burden
Of that same tune, when people hum it long):
The price would speedily repay its worth in
An edifice no less sublime than strong,
By which Lord Henry's good taste would go forth in
Its glory through all ages, shining sunny,
For Gothic daring shown in English money.*

LX.

There were two lawyers busy on a mortgage
Lord Henry wish'd to raise for a new purchase:
Also a lawsuit upon tenures burgage,
And one on tithes, which sure are Discord's torches,
Kindling Religion till she throws down *her* gage,
"Untying" squires "to fight against the churches": * [man,
There was a prize ox, a prize pig, and plough-
For Henry was a sort of Sabine showman.

LXI.

There were two poachers caught in a steel trap, [cence:
Ready for gaol, their place of convales-
There was a country girl, in a close cap
And scarlet cloak (I hate the sight to see, since— [hap—
Since—since—in youth, I had the sad mis-
But luckily I've paid few parish fees since)
That scarlet cloak, alas, unclosed with rigor,
Presents the problem of a double figure.

LXII.

A reel within a bottle is a mystery:
One can't tell how it e'er got in or out:
Therefore the present piece of natural history
I leave to those who are fond of solving doubt; [ory,
And merely state, though not for the consist-
Lord Henry was a justice, and that Scout
The constable, beneath a warrant's banner,
Had bagg'd this poacher upon Nature's manor.

LXIII.

Now justices of peace must judge all pieces
Of mischief, of all kinds, and keep the game
And morals of the country from caprices
Of those who've not a license for the same:
And of all things, excepting tithes and leases,
Perhaps these are most difficult to tame:
Preserving partridges and pretty wenches,
Are puzzles to the most precautious benches.

LXIV.

The present culprit was extremely pale,
Pale as if painted so; her cheek being red
By nature, as in higher dames less hale [bed.
'Tis white, at least when they just rise from
Perhaps she was ashamed of seeming frail,
Poor soul! for she was country born and
And knew no better, in her immorality, [bred,
Than to wax white—for blushes are for quality.

LXV.

Her black, bright, downcast, yet *espiègle* eye,
Had gather'd a large tear into the corner,
Which the poor thing at times essay'd to dry,
For she was not a sentimental mourner,
Parading all her sensibility,

* "Ausu Romano, ære Veneto," is the inscription (and well inscribed in this instance) on the sea walls between the Adriatic and Venice. The walls were a republican work of the Venetians; the inscription I believe Imperial, and inscribed by Napoleon the First. It is time to continue to him that title: there will be a second by and by, "Spes altera mundi," if he live [Napoleon, Duke de Reichstadt. He died at Vienna, 1832]: let him not defeat it like his father. But 'n any case he will be preferable to imbeciles. There is a glorious field for him, if he know how to cultivate it.

* "Though ye untie the winds, and bid them fight Against the churches."—MACBETH.

Nor insolent enough to scorn the scorner,
But stood in trembling, patient tribulation,
To be call'd up for her examination.

LXVI.

Of course these groups were scatter'd here and there,
Not nigh the gay saloon of ladies gent.
The lawyers in the study; and in air [men sent
The prize pig, ploughman, poachers; the
From town, viz., architect and dealer, were
Both busy (as a general in his tent,
Writing despatches) in their several stations,
Exulting in their brilliant lucubrations.

LXVII.

But this poor girl was left in the great hall,
While Scout, the parish guardian of the frail,
Discuss'd (he hated beer yclept the "small")
A mighty mug of *moral* double ale.
She waited until Justice could recall
Its kind attentions to their proper pale,
To name a thing in nomenclature rather
Perplexing for most virgins—a child's father.

LXVIII.

You see here was enough of occupation
For the Lord Henry, link'd with dogs and horses.
There was much bustle, too, and preparation
Below-stairs, on the score of second courses:
Because, as suits their rank and situation,
Those who in counties have great land resources, [rouse,
Have "public days," when all men may ca-
Though not exactly what's call'd "open house."

LXIX.

But once a week or fortnight, *uninvited*
(Thus we translate a *general invitation*),
All country gentlemen, esquired or knighted,
May drop in, without cards, and take their station
At the full board, and sit alike delighted
With fashionable wines and conversation,
And, as the isthmus of the grand connection,
Talk o'er, themselves, the past and next election.

LXX.

Lord Henry was a great electioneerer,
Burrowing for boroughs like a rat or rabbit:
But county contests cost him rather dearer,
Because the neighboring Scotch Earl of Giftgabbit [here:
Had English influence, in the self-same sphere
His son, the Honorable Dick Dicedrabbit,
Was member for the "other interest" (meaning [ing).
The same self-interest, with a different lean-

LXXI.

Cautious and courteous therefore in his county,
He was all things to all men, and dispensed
To some civility, to others bounty,
And promises to all—which last commenced
To gather to a somewhat large amount, he
Not calculating how much they condensed;
But what with keeping some and breaking others,
His word had the same value as another's.

LXXII.

A friend to freedom and freeholders—yet
No less a friend to government,—he held
That he exactly the just medium hit [pell'd,
'Twixt place and patriotism—albeit com-
Such was his sovereign's pleasure (though unHe added modestly, when rebels rail'd), [fit,
To hold some sinecures he wish'd abolish'd,
But that with them all law would be demolish'd.

LXXIII.

He was "free to confess"—(whence comes this phrase?
Is't English? No—'tis only parliamentary)
That innovation's spirit nowadays [century.
Had made more progress than for the last
He would not tread a factious path to praise,
Though for the public weal disposed to venture high:
As for his place, he could but say this of it,
That the fatigue was greater than the profit.

LXXIV.

Heaven and his friends knew that a private life
Had ever been his sole and whole ambition;
But could he quit his king in times of strife,
Which threaten'd the whole country with perdition? [knife
When demagogues would with a butcher's
Cut through and through (oh, damnable incision!) [strings
The Gordian or the Geordi-an knot, whose
Have tied together commons, lords, and kings?

LXXV.

Sooner "come place into the civil list
And champion him to the utmost"*—he would keep it,
Till duly disappointed or dismiss'd:
Profit he cared not for, let others reap it.
But should the day come when place ceased to exist, [weep it:
The country would have far more cause to
For how could it go on? Explain who can!
He gloried in the name of Englishman.

LXXVI.

He was as independent—ay, much more—
Than those who were not paid for independence,
As common soldiers, or a common—shore,
Have in their several arts or parts ascend-
O'er the irregulars in lust or gore, [ance
Who do not give professional attendance.
Thus on the mob all statesmen are as eager
To prove their pride, as footmen to a beggar.

* "Rather than so, come fate into the list,
And champion me to the utterance."—MACBETH.

LXXVII.

All this (save the last stanza) Henry said,
And thought. I say no more—I've said too much;
For all of us have either heard or read—
Off—or *upon* the hustings—some slight such
Hints from the independent heart or head
Of the official candidate. I'll touch
No more on this—the dinner-bell hath rung
And grace is said—the grace I *should* have *sung*—

LXXVIII.

But I'm too late, and therefore must make play.
'Twas a great banquet, such as Albion old
Was wont to boast—as if a glutton's tray
Were something very glorious to behold.
But 'twas a public feast, and public day,—
Quite full, right dull, guests hot, and dishes cold,
Great plenty, much formality, small cheer,
And everybody out of their own sphere.

LXXIX.

The squires familiarly formal, and
My lords and ladies proudly condescending;
The very servants puzzling how to hand
Their plates—without it might be too much bending [stand—
From their high places by the sideboard's
Yet, like their masters, fearful of offending.
For any deviation from the graces [*places.*
Might cost both man and master too—their

LXXX.

There were some hunters bold, and coursers keen, [deigned to lurch:
Whose hounds ne'er err'd, nor greyhounds
Some deadly shots too, Septembrizers, seen
Earliest to rise, and last to quit the scarch
Of the poor partridge through his stubble screen. [church,
There were some massy members of the
Takers of tithes, and makers of good matches,
And several who sung fewer songs than catches.

LXXXI.

There were some country wags too—and, alas,
Some exiles from the town, who had been driven
To gaze, instead of pavement, upon grass,
And rise at nine, in lieu of long eleven.
And lo! upon that day it came to pass,
I sate next that o'erwhelming son of heaven,
The very powerful parson Peter Pith,
The loudest wit I e'er was deafen'd with.

LXXXII.

I knew him in his livelier London days,
A brilliant diner out, though but a curate;
And not a joke he cut but earn'd its praise,
Until preferment, coming at a sure rate,
(Oh Providence! how wondrous are Thy ways!
Who would suppose Thy gifts sometimes obdurate?) [Lincoln,
Gave him, to lay the devil who looks o'er
A fat fen vicarage, and nought to think on.

LXXXIII

His jokes were sermons, and his sermons jokes; [fens;
But both were thrown away amongst the
For wit hath no great friend in aguish folks.
No longer ready ears and short-hand pens
Imbibed the gay *bon mot* or happy hoax:
The poor priest was reduced to common sense,
Or to coarse efforts, very loud and long,
To hammer a hoarse laugh from the thick throng.

LXXXIV.

There *is* a difference, says the song, "between
A beggar and a queen," or *was* (of late,
The latter worse used of the two, we've seen—
But we'll say nothing of affairs of state);
A difference "'twixt a bishop and a dean,"
A difference between crockery ware and plate,
As between English beef and Spartan broth—
And yet great heroes have been bred by both.

LXXXV.

But of all nature's discrepancies, none, [ence
Upon the whole, is greater than the differ-
Beheld between the country and the town,
Of which the latter merits every preference
From those who've few resources of their own,
And only think or act or feel with reference
To some small plan of interest or ambition—
Both which are limited to no condition.

LXXXVI.

But *en avant!* The light loves languish o'er
Long banquets and too many guests; although
A slight repast makes people love much more;
Bacchus and Ceres being, as we know,
Even from our grammar upwards, friends of yore
With vivifying Venus, who doth owe
To these the invention of champagne and truffles; [truffles.
Temperance delights her, but long fasting

LXXXVII.

Dully pass'd o'er the dinner of the day;
And Juan took his place he knew not where.
Confused in the confusion, and distrait,
And sitting as if nail'd upon his chair, [fray,
Though knives and forks clank'd round as in a
He seem'd unconscious of all passing there,
Till some one, with a groan, express'd a wish
(Unheeded twice) to have a fin of fish.

LXXXVIII.

On which, at the *third* asking of the banns,
He started; and, perceiving smiles around,
Broadening to grins, he color'd more than once,
And hastily—as nothing can confound
A wise man more than laughter from a dunce—
Inflicted on the dish a deadly wound,
And with such hurry, that, ere he could curb it,
He had paid his neighbor's prayer with half a turbot.

LXXXIX.

This was no bad mistake, as it occurr'd,
The supplicator being an amateur;
But others, who were left with scarce a third,
Were angry—as they well might, to be sure.
They wonder'd how a young man so absurd
Lord Henry at his table should endure;
And this, and his not knowing how much oats
Had fallen last market, cost his host three votes.

XC.

They little knew, or might have sympathized,
That he the night before had seen a ghost,
A prologue which but slightly harmonized
With the substantial company engross'd
By matter, and so much materialized, [most
That one scarce knew at what to marvel
Of two things—how (the question rather odd is) [bodies.
Such bodies could have souls, or souls such

XCI.

But what confused him more than smile or stare
From all the squires and squiresses around,
Who wonder'd at the abstraction of his air,
Especially as he had been renown'd
For some vivacity among the fair,
Even in the country circle's narrow bound
(For little things, upon my lord's estate,
Were good small talk for others still less great),

XCII.

Was that he caught Aurora's eye on his,
And something like a smile upon her cheek.
Now this he really rather took amiss: [speak
In those who rarely smile, their smiles be-
A strong external motive; and in this
Smile of Aurora's there was nought to pique,
Or hope, or love, with any of the wiles
Which some pretend to trace in ladies' smiles.

XCIII.

'Twas a mere quiet smile of contemplation,
Indicative of some surprise and pity:
And Juan grew carnation with vexation,
Which was not very wise, and still less witty,
Since he had gain'd at least her observation,
A most important outwork of the city—
As Juan should have known, had not his senses [defences.
By last night's ghost been driven from their

XCIV.

But what was bad, she did not blush in turn,
Nor seem embarrass'd—quite the contrary:
Her aspect was as usual, still—*not* stern—
And she withdrew, but cast not down, her eye,
Yet grew a little pale—with what? concern?
I know not; but her color ne'er was high—
Though sometimes faintly flush'd—and always clear,
As deep seas in a sunny atmosphere.

XCV.

But Adeline was occupied by fame [scending:
This day; and watching, witching, conde-
To the consumers of fish, fowl, and game,
And dignity with courtesy so blending,
As all must blend whose part it is to aim
(Especially as the sixth year is ending)
At their lord's, son's, or similar connection's
Safe conduct through the rocks of re-elections.

XCVI.

Though this was most expedient, on the whole,
And usual—Juan, when he cast a glance
On Adeline, while playing her grand *rôle*,
Which she went through as though it were a
Betraying only now and then her soul, [dance,
By a look scarce perceptibly askance
(Of weariness or scorn), began to feel
Some doubt how much of Adeline was *real;*

XCVII.

So well she acted all and every part
By turns, with that vivacious versatility,
Which many people take for want of heart.
They err—'tis merely what is call'd mobility,*
A thing of temperament, and not of art,
Though seeming so, from its supposed facility;
And false—though true; for surely they're sincerest
Who are strongly acted on by what is nearest.

XCVIII.

This makes your actors, artists, and romancers
Heroes sometimes, though seldom—sages never;
But speakers, bards, diplomatists, and dancers,
Little that's great, but much of what is clever:
Most orators, but very few financiers,
Though all Exchequer Chancellors endeavor
Of late years to dispense with Cocker's rigors,
And grow quite figurative with their figures.

XCIX.

The poets of arithmetic are they [to be
Who, though they prove not two and two
Five, as they might do in a modest way,
Have plainly made it out that four are three,
Judging by what they take and what they pay.
The Sinking Fund's unfathomable sea,
That most unliquidating liquid, leaves
The debt unsunk, yet sinks all it receives.

C.

While Adeline dispensed her airs and graces,
The fair Fitz-Fulke seem'd very much at ease: [faces,
Though too well bred to quiz men to their
Her laughing blue eyes with a glance could
The ridicules of people in all places— [seize

* In French, mobilite. I am not sure that mobility is English; but it is expressive of a quality which rather belongs to other climates, though it is sometimes seen to a great extent in our own. It may be defined as an excessive susceptibility or immediate impressions—at the same time without losing the past; and is, though sometimes apparently useful to the possessor, a most painful and unhappy attribute.

That honey of your fashionable bees—
And store it up for mischievous enjoyment;
And this at present was her kind employment.

CI.

However, the day closed, as days must close:
The evenings also waned—and coffee came:
Each carriage was announced, and ladies rose,
And curtsying off, as curtsies country dame,
Retired; with most unfashionable bows,
Their docile esquires also did the same;
Delighted with their dinner and their host,
But with the Lady Adeline the most.

CII.

Some praised her beauty: others her great grace,
The warmth of her politeness, whose sincerity
Was obvious in each feature of her face,
Whose traits were radiant with the rays of verity.
Yes, *she* was truly worthy *her* high place!
No one could envy her deserved prosperity.
And then her dress—what beautiful simplicity
Draperied her form with curious felicity![*]

CIII.

Meanwhile sweet Adeline deserved their praises,
By an impartial indemnification
For all her past exertion and soft phrases,
In a most edifying conversation,
And faces,
Which turn'd upon their late guests' miens
And families, even to the last relation;
Their hideous wives, their horrid selves and dresses,
And truculent distortion of their tresses.

CIV.

True, *she* said little—'twas the rest that broke
Forth into universal epigram:
But then 'twas to the purpose what she spoke:
Like Addison's "faint praise," so wont to damn,
Her own but served to set off every joke,
As music chimes in with a melodrame.
How sweet the task to shield an absent friend!
I ask but this of mine, to—*not* defend.

CV.

There were but two exceptions to this keen
Skirmish of wits o'er the departed: one,
Aurora, with her pure and placid mien;
And Juan, too, in general behind none
In gay remark on what he had heard or seen,
Sate silent now, his usual spirits gone:
In vain he heard the others rail or rally;
He would not join them in a single sally.

CVI.

'Tis true he saw Aurora look as though
She approved his silence; she perhaps mistook
Its motive for that charity we owe,
But seldom pay, the absent, nor would look
Further: it might or it might not be so:
But Juan, sitting silent in his nook,
Observing little in his reverie,
Yet saw this much, which he was glad to see.

CVII.

The ghost at least had done him this much good,
In making him as silent as a ghost,
If, in the circumstances which ensued,
He gain'd esteem where it was worth the most.
And certainly Aurora had renew'd
In him some feelings he had lately lost,
Or harden'd; feelings which, perhaps ideal,
Are so divine, that I must deem them real:—

CVIII.

The love of higher things and better days;
The unbounded hope, and heavenly ignorance
Of what is call'd the world and the world's ways:
The moments when we gather from a glance
More joy than from all future pride or praise,
Which kindle manhood, but can ne'er entrance
The heart in an existence of its own,
Of which another's bosom is the zone.

CIX.

Who would not sigh Αἰ αἰ των Κυθερειαν,
That *hath* a memory, or that *had* a heart?
Alas! *her* star must fade like that of Dian:
Ray fades on ray, as years on years depart.
Anacreon only had the soul to tie an
Unwithering myrtle round the unblunted dart
Of Eros; but though thou hast play'd us many tricks,
Still we respect thee, "*Alma Venus Genetrix!*"

CX.

And full of sentiments, sublime as billows,
Heaving between this world and worlds beyond,
Don Juan, when the midnight hour of pillows
Arrived, retired to his; but to despond
Rather than rest. Instead of poppies, willows
Waved o'er his couch; he meditated, fond,
Of those sweet bitter thoughts which banish sleep,
And make the worldling sneer, the youngling weep.

CXI.

The night was as before: he was undress'd,
Saving his night-gown, which is an undress
Completely *sans culotte*, and without vest;
In short, he hardly could be clothed with less:
But, apprehensive of his spectral guest,
He sate, with feelings awkward to express
(By those who have not had such visitations),
Expectant of the ghost's fresh operations.

CXII.

And not in vain he listen'd—Hush! what's that?
I see—I see—Ah, no!—'tis not—yet 'tis—
Ye powers! it is the—the—the—Pooh! the cat!
The devil may take that stealthy pace of his!
So like a spiritual pit-a-pat,
Or tip-toe of an amatory Miss,
Gliding the first time to a rendezvous,
And dreading the chaste echoes of her shoe.

[*] "Curiosa felicitas."—Petronius Arbiter.

CXIII.

Again—what is't? The wind? No, no,—this [time
It is the sable Friar, as before,
With awful footsteps, regular as rhyme, [more:
Or (as rhymes may be in these days) much
Again, through shadows of the night sublime,
When deep sleep fell on men, and the world wore
The starry darkness round her like a girdle,
Spangled with gems—the monk made his blood curdle.

CXIV.

A noise like to wet fingers drawn on glass,*
Which sets the teeth on edge; and a slight [pass,
clatter,
Like showers which on the midnight gust will
Sounding like very supernatural water,
Came over Juan's ear, which throbb'd, alas!
For immaterialism's a serious matter;
So that even those whose faith is the most great
In souls immortal, shun them *tête-à-tête*.

CXV.

Were his eyes open? Yes! and his mouth, too.
Surprise has this effect—to make one dumb,
Yet leave the gate which eloquence slips through
As wide as if a long speech were to come.
Nigh and more nigh the awful echoes drew,
Tremendous to a mortal tympanum:
His eyes were open, and (as was before [door.
Stated) his mouth. What open'd next?—the

CXVI.

It open'd with a most infernal creak,
Like that of hell. "*Lasciate ogni speranza*
Voi ch' entrate!" The hinge seem'd to speak,
Dreadful as Dante's rima, or this stanza;
Or—but all words upon such themes are weak;
A single shade's sufficient to entrance a
Hero—for what is substance to a spirit?
Or how is't *matter* trembles to come near it?

CXVII.

The door flew wide, not swiftly—but as fly
The sea-gulls, with a steady, sober flight—
And then swung back; nor close—but stood awry,
Half letting in long shadows on the light,
Which still in Juan's candlesticks burn'd high,
For he had two, both tolerably bright;
And in the doorway, darkening darkness,
The sable friar, in his solemn hood. [stood

CXVIII.

Don Juan shook, as erst he had been shaken
The night before: but, being sick of shaking,
He first inclined to think he had been mistaken,
And then to be ashamed of such mistaking:
His own internal ghost began to awaken [ing—
Within him, and to quell his corporal quak-
Hinting that soul and body, on the whole,
Were odds against a disembodied soul.

CXIX.

And then his dread grew wrath, and his wrath fierce; [treated;
And he arose, advanced—the shade re-
But Juan, eager now the truth to pierce,
Follow'd, his veins no longer cold, but heated,
Resolved to thrust the mystery *carte* and *tierce*,
At whatsoever risk of being defeated;
The ghost stopp'd, menaced, then retired until
He reach'd the ancient wall, then stood stone still.

CXX.

Juan put forth one arm—Eternal Powers!
It touch'd no soul nor body, but the wall,
On which the moonbeams fell in silvery showers,
Chequer'd with all the tracery of the hall.
He shudder'd, as no doubt the bravest cowers,
When he can't tell what 'tis that doth appal.
How odd, a single hobgoblin's nonentity
Should cause more fear than a whole host's identity!*

CXXI.

But still the shade remain'd: the blue eyes,
And rather variably for stony death: [glared,
Yet one thing rather good the grave had spared—
The ghost had a remarkably sweet breath;
A straggling curl show'd he had been fair-hair'd;
A red lip, with two rows of pearls beneath,
Gleam'd forth, as through the casement's ivy shroud [cloud.
The moon peeped, just escaped from a gray

CXXII.

And Juan, puzzled, but still curious, thrust
His other arm forth—Wonder upon wonder!
It press'd upon a hard but glowing bust,
Which beat as if there was a warm heart under.
He found, as people on most trials must,
That he had made at first a silly blunder,
And that in his confusion he had caught
Only the wall, instead of what he sought.

CXXIII.

The ghost, if ghost it were, seem'd a sweet soul
As ever lurk'd beneath a holy hood:
A dimpled chin, a neck of ivory, stole [blood:
Forth into something much like flesh and
Back fell the sable frock and dreary cowl,
And they reveal'd—alas, that e'er they should!
In full, voluptuous, but *not o'ergrown* bulk,
The phantom of her frolic Grace—Fitz-Fulke!

* See the account of the Ghost of the uncle of Prince Charles of Saxony, raised by Schroepfer—"Karl! Karl! was wollst du mit mich!"

* "Shadows to-night
Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard
Than could the substance of ten thousand soldiers."
—Rich. III.

NOTES.

CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

Canto II., Stanza xii., p. 160.

"To rive what Goth and Turk and time hath spared.") At this moment (January 3, 1810), besides what has been already deposited in London, an Hydriot vessel is in the Pyræus to receive every portable relic. Thus, as I heard a young Greek observe, in common with many of his countrymen—for, lost as they are, they yet feel on this occasion—thus may Lord Elgin boast of having ruined Athens. An Italian painter of the first eminence, named Lusieri, is the agent of devastation; and like the Greek "finder" of Verres in Sicily, who followed the same profession, he has proved the able instrument of plunder. Between this artist and the French Consul Fauvel, who wishes to rescue the remains for his own government, there is now a violent dispute concerning a car employed in their conveyance, the wheel of which (I wish they were both broken upon it!) has been locked up by the Consul, and Lusieri has laid his complaint before the Waywode. Lord Elgin has been extremely happy in his choice of Signor Lusieri. During a residence of ten years in Athens, he never had the curiosity to proceed as far as Sunium (now Cape Colonna), till he accompanied us in our second excursion. However, his works, as far as they go, are most beautiful; but they are almost all unfinished. While he and his patrons confine themselves to tasting medals, appreciating cameos, sketching columns, and cheapening gems, their little absurdities are as harmless as insect or fox-hunting, maiden speechifying, barouche-driving, or any such pastime; but when they carry away three or four ship-loads of the most valuable and massy relics that time and barbarism have left to the most injured and most celebrated of cities; when they destroy, in a vain attempt to tear down, those works which have been the admiration of ages, I know no motive which can excuse, no name which can designate, the perpetrators of this dastardly devastation. It was not the least of the crimes laid to the charge of Verres, that he had plundered Sicily, in the manner since imitated at Athens. The most unblushing impudence could hardly go further than to affix the name of its plunderer to the walls of the Acropolis; while the wanton and useless defacement of the whole range of the basso-relievos, in one compartment of the temple, will never permit that name to be pronounced by an observer without execration.

On this occasion I speak impartially: I am not a collector or admirer of collections, consequently no rival: but I have some early prepossession in favor of Greece, and do not think the honor of England advanced by plunder, whether of India or Attica.

Another noble Lord has done better, because he has done less: but some others, more or less noble, yet "all honorable men," have done best, because, after a deal of excavation and execration, bribery to the Waywode, mining and countermining, they have done nothing at all. We had such ink-shed, and wine-shed, which almost ended in bloodshed! Lord E.'s "prig" (see Jonathan Wild for the definition of "priggism") quarreled with another Gropius* by name (a very good name too for his business), and muttered something about satisfaction, in a verbal answer to a note of the poor Prussian; this was stated at table to Gropius, who laughed, but could eat no dinner afterwards. The rivals were not reconciled when I left Greece. I have reason to remember their squabble, for they wanted to make me their arbitrator.

Ibid. p. 160.

"Yet felt some portion of their mother's pains.") I cannot resist availing myself of the permission of my friend Dr. Clarke, whose name requires no comment with the public, but whose sanction will add tenfold weight to my testimony, to insert the following extract from a very obliging letter of his to me, as a note to the above lines: "When the last of the Metopes was taken from the Parthenon, and, in moving of it, great part of the superstructure with one of the triglyphs was thrown down by the workmen whom Lord Elgin employed, the Disdar, who beheld the mischief done to the building, took his pipe from his mouth, dropped a tear, and in a supplicating tone of voice, said to Lusieri, 'Telos!' I was present." The Disdar alluded to was the father of the present Disdar.

Canto II., Stanza xxxviii., p. 163.

"Land of Albania! let me bend mine eyes.") Albania comprises part of Macedonia, Illyria, Chaonia, and Epirus. Iskander is the Turkish word for Alexander: and the celebrated Scanderbeg (Lord Alexander) is alluded to in the third and fourth lines of the thirty-eighth stanza. I do not know whether I am correct in making Scanderbeg the countryman of Alexander, who was born at Pella in Macedon, but Mr. Gibbon terms him so, and adds Pyrrhus to the list, in speaking of his exploits.

Of Albania Gibbon remarks that a country "within sight of Italy is less known than the interior of America." Circumstances, of little consequence to mention, led Mr. Hobhouse and myself into that country before we visited any other part of the Ottoman dominions; and with the exception of Major Leake, then officially resident at Joannina, no other Englishmen have ever advanced beyond the capital into the interior, as that gentleman very lately assured me. Ali Pacha was at that time (October, 1809) carrying on war against Ibrahim Pacha, whom he had driven to Berat, a strong fortress, which he was then besieging; on our arrival at Joannina we were invited to Tepaleni, his highness's birthplace, and favorite Serai, only one day's distance from Berat; at this juncture the Vizier had made it his headquarters. After some stay in the capital, we accordingly followed; but though furnished with every accommodation, and escorted by one of the Vizier's secretaries, we were nine days (on account of the rains) in accomplishing a journey which, on our return, barely occupied four. On our route we passed two cities, Argyrocastro and Libochabo, apparently little inferior to Yanina in size; and no pencil or pen can ever do justice to the scenery in the vicinity of Zitza and Delvinachi, the frontier village of Epirus and Albania Proper.

On Albania and its inhabitants I am unwilling to descant, because this will be done so much better by my fellow-traveler, in a work which may probably precede this in publication, that I as little wish to follow as I would to anticipate him. But some few observations are necessary to the text. The Arnaouts, or Albanese, struck me forcibly by their resemblance to the Highlanders of Scotland, in dress, figure, and manner of living. Their very mountains seemed Caledonian, with a kinder climate. The

* This Sr. Gropius was employed by a noble Lord for the sole purpose of sketching, in which he excels; but I am sorry to say, that he has, through the abused sanction of that most respectable name, been treading at humble distance in the steps of Sr. Lusieri.—A shipful of his trophies was detained, and I believe confiscated, at Constantinople, in 1810. I am most happy to be now enabled to state that "this was not in his bond"; that he was employed solely as a painter, and that his noble patron disavows all connection with him, except as an artist. If the error in the first and second edition of this poem has given the noble Lord a moment's pain, I am very sorry for it; Sr. Gropius has assumed for years the name of his agent; and though I cannot much condemn myself for sharing in the mistake of so many, I am happy in being one of the first to be undeceived. Indeed, I have as much pleasure in contradicting this as I felt regret in stating it.—Note to third edition.

kilt, though white; the spare, active form; their dialect, Celtic in its sound, and their hardy habits, all carried me back to Morven. No nation are so detested and dreaded by their neighbors as the Albanese; the Greeks hardly regard them as Christians, or the Turks as Moslems; and in fact they are a mixture of both, and sometimes neither. Their habits are predatory (all are armed); and the red-shawled Arnaouts, the Montenegrins, Chimariots, and Gegdes, are treacherous; the others differ somewhat in garb, and essentially in character. As far as my own experience goes, I can speak favorably. I was attended by two, an Infidel and a Mussulman, to Constantinople and every other part of Turkey which came within my observation; and more faithful in peril, or indefatigable in service, are rarely to be found. The Infidel was named Basilius, the Moslem, Dervish Tahiri; the former a man of middle age, and the latter about my own. Basili was strictly charged by Ali Pacha in person to attend us; and Dervish was one of fifty who accompanied us through the forests of Acarnania to the banks of Achelous, and onward to Messalonghi in Ætolia. There I took him into my own service, and never had occasion to repent it till the moment of my departure.

When, in 1810, after the departure of my friend Mr. Hobhouse for England, I was seized with a severe fever in the Morea, these men saved my life by frightening away my physician, whose throat they threatened to cut if I was not cured within a given time. To this consolatory assurance of posthumous retribution, and a resolute refusal of Dr. Romanelli's prescriptions, I attributed my recovery. I had left my last remaining English servant at Athens; my dragoman was as ill as myself, and my poor Arnaouts nursed me with an attention which would have done honor to civilization. They had a variety of adventures; for the Moslem, Dervish, being a remarkably handsome man, was always squabbling with the husbands of Athens, insomuch that four of the principal Turks paid me a visit of remonstrance at the Convent, on the subject of his having taken a woman from the bath (whom he had lawfully bought, however), a thing quite contrary to etiquette. Basili also was extremely gallant amongst his own persuasion, and had the greatest veneration for the church, mixed with the highest contempt of churchmen, whom he cuffed upon occasion in a most heterodox manner. Yet he never passed a church without crossing himself; and I remember the risk he ran in entering St. Sophia, in Stambol, because it had once been a place of his worship. On remonstrating with him on his inconsistent proceedings, he invariably answered, "Our church is holy, our priests are thieves"; and then he crossed himself as usual, and boxed the ears of the first "papas" who refused to assist in any required operation, as was always found to be necessary where a priest had any influence with the Cogia Bashi of his village. Indeed, a more abandoned race of miscreants cannot exist than the lower orders of the Greek clergy.

When preparations were made for my return, my Albanians were summoned to receive their pay. Basili took his with an awkward show of regret at my intended departure, and marched away to his quarters with his bag of piastres. I sent for Dervish, but for some time he was not to be found; at last he entered, just as Signor Logotheti, father to the ci-devant Anglo-consul of Athens, and some other of my Greek acquaintances, paid me a visit. Dervish took the money, but on a sudden dashed it to the ground; and clasping his hands, which he raised to his forehead, rushed out of the room weeping bitterly. From that moment to the hour of my embarkation, he continued his lamentations, and all our efforts to console him only produced this answer, "M'apheinei," "He leaves me." Signor Logotheti, who never wept before for anything less than the loss of a para (about the fourth of a farthing), melted; the padre of the convent, my attendants, my visitors; and I verily believe that even Sterne's "foolish fat scullion" would have left her "fish-kettle" to sympathize with the unaffected and unexpected sorrow of this barbarian.

For my own part, when I remembered that, a short time before my departure from England, a noble and most intimate associate had excused himself from taking leave of me because he had to attend a relation "to a milliner's," I felt no less surprised than humiliated by the present occurrence and the past recollection. That Dervish would leave me with some regret was to be expected; when master and man have been scrambling over the mountains of a dozen provinces together, they are unwilling to separate; but his present feelings, contrasted with his native ferocity, improved my opinion of the human heart. I believe this almost feudal fidelity is frequent amongst them. One day, on our journey over Parnassus, an Englishman in my service gave him a push in some dispute about the baggage, which he unluckily mistook for a blow; he spoke not, but sat down leaning his head upon his hands. Foreseeing the consequences, we endeavored to explain away the affront, which produced the following answer: "I have been a robber; I am a soldier; no captain ever struck me; you are my master, I have eaten your bread, but by that bread! (a usual oath), had it been otherwise, I would have stabbed the dog, your servant, and gone to the mountains." So the affair ended, but from that day forward he never thoroughly forgave the thoughtless fellow who insulted him. Dervish excelled in the dance of his country, conjectured to be a remnant of the ancient Pyrrhic: be that as it may, it is manly, and requires wonderful agility. It is very distinct from the stupid Romaika, the dull round-about of the Greeks, of which our Athenian party had so many specimens.

The Albanians in general (I do not mean the cultivators of the earth in the provinces, who have also that appellation, but the mountaineers) have a fine cast of countenance; and the most beautiful women I ever beheld, in stature and in features, we saw leveling the road broken down by the torrents between Delvinachi and Libochabo. Their manner of walking is truly theatrical; but this strut is probably the effect of the capote, or cloak, depending from one shoulder. Their long hair reminds you of the Spartans, and their courage in desultory warfare is unquestionable. Though they have some cavalry amongst the Gegdes, I never saw a good Arnaout horseman; my own preferred the English saddles, which, however, they could never keep. But on foot they are not to be subdued by fatigue.

CANTO II., STANZA LXXII., p. 167.

"While thus in concert they this lay half sang, half scream'd." As a specimen of the Albanian or Arnaout dialect of the Illyric, I here insert two of their most popular choral songs, which are generally chanted in dancing by men or women indiscriminately. The first words are merely a kind of chorus without meaning, like some in our own and all other languages.

1. Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo,
   Naciarrua, popuso.
2. Naciarura na civin
   Ha pen derini ti hin.
3. Ha pe uderi escrotini
   Ti vin ti mar servetini.
4. Caliriote me surme
   Ea ha pe pse dua tive.
5. Buo, Bo, Bo, Bo, Bo,
   Gi egem spirta esimiro.
6. Caliriote vu le funde
   Ede vete tunde tunde.
7. Caliriote me surme
   Ti mi put e poi mi le.

1. Lo, Lo, I come, I come; be thou silent.
2. I come, I run; open the door that I may enter.
3. Open the door by halves, that I may take my turban.
4. Caliriotes* with the dark eyes, open the gate that I may enter.
5. Lo, Lo, I hear thee, my soul.
6. An Arnaout girl, in costly garb, walks with graceful pride.
7. Caliriot maid of the dark eyes, give me a kiss.

*The Albanese, particularly the women, are frequently termed "Caliriotes," for what reason I inquired in vain.

8. Se ti puta citi mora
Si mi ri ni veti udo gia.
9. Va le ni il che cadale
Celo more, more celo.
10. Plu hari ti tirote
Plu huron cia pra seti.

8. If I have kissed thee what hast thou gained! My soul is consumed with fire.
9. Dance lightly, more gently, and gently still.
10. Make not so much dust to destroy your embroidered hose.

The last stanza would puzzle a commentator; the men have certainly buskins of the most beautiful texture, but the ladies (to whom the above is supposed to be addressed) have nothing under their little yellow boots and slippers but a well-turned and sometimes very white ankle. The Arnaout girls are much handsomer than the Greeks, and their dress is far more picturesque. They preserve their shape much longer also, from being always in the open air. It is to be observed, that the Arnaout is not a written language: the words of this song, therefore, as well as the one which follows, are spelt according to their pronunciation. They are copied by one who speaks and understands the dialect perfectly, and who is a native of Athens.

1. Ndi sefda tinde ulavossa
Vettimi upri vi lofsa.
2. Ah vaisisso mi privi lofse
Si mi rini mi la vosse.
3. Uti tasa roba stua
Sitti eve tulati dua.
4. Roba stinori ssidua
Qu mi sini vetti dua.
5. Qurmini dua civileni
Roba ti siarmi tildi eni.
6. Utara pisa vaisisso me simi rin ti hapti
Eti mi bire a piste si gui dendroi tiltati.
7. Udi vura udorini udiri cicova cilti mora
Udorini talti hollna u ede caimoni mora

1. I am wounded by thy love, and have loved but to scorch myself.
2. Thou hast consumed me! Ah, maid! thou hast struck me to the heart.
3. I have said I wish no dowry, but thine eyes and eyelashes.
4. The accursed dowry I want not, but thee only.
5. Give me thy charms, and let the portion feed the flames.
6. I have loved thee, maid, with a sincere soul, but thou hast left me like a withered tree.
7. If I have placed my hand on thy bosom, what have I gained? my hand is withdrawn, but retains the flame.

I believe the two last stanzas, as they are in a different measure, ought to belong to another ballad. An idea something similar to the thought in the last lines was expressed by Socrates, whose arm having come in contact with one of his "hupokolpioi," Critobulus or Cleobulus, the philosopher complained of a shooting pain as far as his shoulder for some days after, and therefore very properly resolved to teach his disciples in future without touching them.

CANTO II., STANZA LXXIII., p 167.

1.

"Fair Greece! sad relic of departed worth!"] Before I say anything about a city of which everybody, traveler or not, has thought it necessary to say something, I will request Miss Owenson, when she next borrows an Athenian heroine for her four volumes, to have the goodness to marry her to somebody more of a gentleman than a "Disdar Aga" (who by the by is not an Aga), the most impolite of petty officers, the greatest patron of larceny Athens ever saw (except Lord E.), and the unworthy occupant of the Acropolis, on a handsome annual stipend of 150 piastres (eight pounds sterling), out of which he has only to pay his garrison, the most ill-regulated corps in the ill-regulated Ottoman Empire. I speak it tenderly, seeing I was once the cause of the husband of "Ida of Athens" nearly suffering the bastinado; and because the said "Disdar" is a turbulent husband, and beats his wife; so that I exhort and beseech Miss Owenson to sue for a separate maintenance in behalf of "Ida." Having premised this much, on a matter of such import to the readers of romances, I may now leave Ida, to mention her birthplace.

Setting aside the magic of the name, and all those associations which it would be pedantic and superfluous to recapitulate, the very situation of Athens would render it the favorite of all who have eyes for art and nature. The climate, to me at least, appeared a perpetual spring; during eight months I never passed a day without being as many hours on horseback; rain is extremely rare, snow never lies in the plains, and a cloudy day is an agreeable rarity. In Spain, Portugal and every part of the East which I visited, except Ionia and Attica, I perceived no such superiority of climate to our own; and at Constantinople, where I passed May, June and part of July (1810), you might "damn the climate, and complain of spleen," five days out of seven.

The air of the Morea is heavy and unwholesome, but the moment you pass the isthmus in the direction of Megara the change is strikingly perceptible. But I fear Hesiod will still be found correct in his description of a Bœotian winter.

We found at Livadia an "esprit fort" in a Greek bishop, of all free-thinkers! This worthy hypocrite rallied his own religion with great intrepidity (but not before his flock), and talked of a mass as a "cogllioneria." It was impossible to think better of him for this; but, for a Bœotian, he was brisk with all his absurdity. This phenomenon (with the exception indeed of Thebes, the remains of Chæronea, the plain of Platea, Orchomenus, Livadia, and its nominal cave of Trophonius) was the only remarkable thing we saw before we passed Mount Cithæron.

The fountain of Dirce turns a mill; at least my companion (who, resolving to be at once cleanly and classical, bathed in it) pronounced it to be the fountain of Dirce, and anybody who thinks it worth while may contradict him. At Castri we drank of half a dozen streamlets, some not of the purest, before we decided to our satisfaction which was the true Castalian, and even that had a villainous twang, probably from the snow, though it did not throw us into an epic fever, like poor Dr. Chandler.

From Fort Phyle, of which large remains still exist, the Plain of Athens, Pentelicus, Hymettus, the Ægean, and the Acropolis, burst upon the eye at once; in my opinion, a more glorious prospect than even Cintra or Istambol. Not the view from the Troad, with Ida, the Hellespont, and the more distant Mount Athos, can equal it, though so superior in extent.

I heard much of the beauty of Arcadia, but excepting the view from the Monastery of Mekaspelion (which is inferior to Zitza in a command of country), and the descent from the mountains on the way from Tripolitza to Argos, Arcadia has little to recommend it beyond the name.

"Sternitur, et dulces moriens reminiscitur Argos."

Virgil could have put this into the mouth of none but an Argive, and (with reverence be it spoken) it does not deserve the epithet. And if the Polynices of Statius, "In mediis audit duo litora campis," did actually hear both shores in crossing the isthmus of Corinth, he had better ears than have ever been worn in such a journey since.

"Athens," says a celebrated topographer, "is still the most polished city of Greece." Perhaps it may of Greece, but not of the Greeks; for Joannina in Epirus is universally allowed, amongst themselves, to be superior in the wealth, refinement, learning, and dialect of its inhabitants. The Athenians are remarkable for their cunning; and the lower orders are not improperly characterized in that proverb, which classes them with the "Jews of Salonica, and the Turks of the Negropont."

Among the various foreigners resident in Athens, French, Italians, Germans, Ragusans, etc., there was never a difference of opinion in their estimate of the Greek character, though on all other topics they disputed with great acrimony.

M. Fauvel, the French consul, who has passed thirty years principally at Athens, and to whose talents as an artist, and manners as a gentleman, none who have known him can refuse their testimony, has frequently declared in my hearing, that the Greeks do not deserve to be emancipated; reasoning on the grounds of their "national and individual depravity!" while he forgot that such depravity is to be attributed to causes which can only be removed by the measure he reprobates.

M. Roque, a French merchant of respectability long settled in Athens, asserted with the most amusing gravity, "Sir, they are the same canaille that existed in the days of Themistocles!" an alarming remark to the "Laudator temporis acti." The ancients banished Themistocles; the moderns cheat Monsieur Roque; thus great men have ever been treated!

In short, all the Franks who are fixtures, and most of the Englishmen, Germans, Danes, etc., of passage, came over by degrees to their opinion, on much the same grounds that a Turk in England would condemn the nation by wholesale, because he was wronged by his lacquey, and overcharged by his washerwoman.

Certainly it was not a little staggering when the Sieurs Fauvel and Lusieri, the greatest demagogues of the day, who divide between them the power of Pericles and the popularity of Cleon, and puzzle the poor Waywode with perpetual differences, agreed in the utter condemnation, "nulla virtute redemptum," of the Greeks in general, and of the Athenians in particular.

For my own humble opinion, I am loth to hazard it, knowing as I do, that there be now in MS. no less than five tours of the first magnitude, and of the most threatening aspect, all in typographical array, by persons of wit and honor, and regular commonplace books; but if I may say this without offence, it seems to me rather hard to declare so positively and pertinaciously, as almost everybody has declared, that the Greeks, because they are very bad, will never be better.

Eton and Sonnini have led us astray by their panegyrics and projects; but, on the other hand, De Pauw and Thornton have debased the Greeks beyond their demerits.

The Greeks will never be independent; they will never be sovereigns as heretofore, and God forbid they ever should! but they may be subjects without being slaves. Our colonies are not independent, but they are free and industrious, and such may Greece be hereafter.

At present, like the Catholics of Ireland and the Jews throughout the world, and such other cudgelled and heterodox people, they suffer all the moral and physical ills that can afflict humanity. Their life is a struggle against truth; they are vicious in their own defence. They are so unused to kindness, that when they occasionally meet with it they look upon it with suspicion, as a dog often beaten snaps at your fingers if you attempt to caress him. "They are ungrateful, notoriously, abominably ungrateful!"—this is the general cry. Now, in the name of Nemesis! for what are they to be grateful? Where is the human being that ever conferred a benefit on Greek or Greeks? They are to be grateful to the Turks for their fetters, and to the Franks for their broken promises and lying counsels. They are to be grateful to the artist who engraves their ruins, and to the antiquary who carries them away; to the traveller whose janissary flogs them, and to the scribbler whose journal abuses them. This is the amount of their obligations to foreigners.

II.

FRANCISCAN CONVENT, ATHENS, January 23, 1811.

Amongst the remnants of the barbarous policy of the earlier ages, are the traces of the bondage which yet exist in different countries; whose inhabitants, however divided in religion and manners, almost all agree in oppression.

The English have at last compassionated their negroes, and under a less bigoted government, may probably one day release their Catholic brethren; but the interposition of foreigners alone can emancipate the Greeks, who, otherwise, appear to have as small a chance of redemption from the Turks, as the Jews have from mankind in general.

Of the ancient Greeks we know more than enough; at least the younger men of Europe devote much of their time to the study of the Greek writers and history, which would be more usefully spent in mastering their own. Of the moderns, we are perhaps more neglectful than they deserve; and while every man of any pretensions to learning is tiring out his youth, and often his age, in the study of the language and of the harangues of the Athenian demagogues in favor of freedom, the real or supposed descendants of these sturdy republicans are left to the actual tyranny of their masters, although a very slight effort is required to strike off their chains.

To talk, as the Greeks themselves do, of their rising again to their pristine superiority, would be ridiculous: as the rest of the world must resume its barbarism, after re-asserting the sovereignty of Greece; but there seems to be no very great obstacle, except in the apathy of the Franks, to their becoming an useful dependency, or even a free state, with a proper guarantee;—under correction, however, be it spoken, for many and well-informed men doubt the practicability even of this.

The Greeks have never lost their hope, though they are now more divided in opinion on the subject of their probable deliverers. Religion recommends the Russians; but they have twice been deceived and abandoned by that power, and the dreadful lesson they received after the Muscovite desertion in the Morea has never been forgotten. The French they dislike; although the subjugation of the rest of Europe will, probably, be attended by the deliverance of continental Greece. The islanders look to the English for succor, as they have very lately possessed themselves of the Ionian republic, Corfu excepted. But whoever appear with arms in their hands will be welcome; and when that day arrives, Heaven have mercy on the Ottomans; they cannot expect it from the Giaours.

But instead of considering what they have been, and speculating on what they may be, let us look at them as they are.

And here it is impossible to reconcile the contrariety of opinions: some, particularly the merchants, decrying the Greeks in the strongest language; others, generally travellers, turning periods in their eulogy, and publishing very curious speculations grafted on their former state, which can have no more effect on their present lot, than the existence of the Incas on the future fortunes of Peru.

One very ingenious person terms them the "natural allies of Englishmen"; another, no less ingenious, will not allow them to be the allies of anybody, and denies their very descent from the ancients; a third, more ingenious than either, builds a Greek empire on a Russian foundation, and realizes (on paper) all the chimeras of Catherine II. As to the question of their descent, what can it import whether the Mainotes are the lineal Laconians or not? or the present Athenians as indigenous as the bees of Hymettus, or as the grasshoppers, to which they once likened themselves? What Englishman cares if he be of a Danish, Saxon, Norman, or Trojan blood? or who, except a Welshman, is afflicted with a desire of being descended from Caractacus?

The poor Greeks do not so much abound in the good things of this world, as to render even their claims to antiquity an object of envy; it is very cruel, then, in Mr. Thornton to disturb them in the possession of all that time has left them, viz., their pedigree, of which they are the more tenacious, as it is all they can call their own. It would be worth while to publish together, and compare, the works of Messrs. Thornton and De Pauw, Eton and Sonnini; paradox on one side, and prejudice on the other. Mr. Thornton conceives himself to have claims to public confidence from a fourteen years' residence at Pera; perhaps he may on the subject of the Turks, but this can give him no more insight

into the real state of Greece and her inhabitants, than as many years spent in Wapping into that of the Western Highlands.

The Greeks of Constantinople live in Fanal; and if Mr. Thornton did not oftener cross the Golden Horn than his brother merchants are accustomed to do, I should place no great reliance on his information. I actually heard one of these gentlemen boast of their little general intercourse with the city, and assert of himself, with an air of triumph, that he had been but four times at Constantinople in as many years.

As to Mr. Thornton's voyages in the Black Sea with Greek vessels, they gave him the same idea of Greece as a cruise to Berwick in a Scotch smack would of Johnny Groat's house. Upon what grounds then does he arrogate the right of condemning by wholesale a body of men, of whom he can know little? It is rather a curious circumstance that Mr. Thornton, who so lavishly dispraises Pouqueville on every occasion of mentioning the Turks, has yet recourse to him as authority on the Greeks, and terms him an impartial observer. Now, Dr. Pouqueville is as little entitled to that appellation as Mr. Thornton to confer it on him.

The fact is, we are deplorably in want of information on the subject of the Greeks, and in particular their literature, nor is there any probability of our being better acquainted, till our intercourse becomes more intimate, or their independence confirmed. The relations of passing travellers are as little to be depended on as the invectives of angry factors; but till something more can be attained, we must be content with the little to be acquired from similar sources.*

However defective these may be, they are preferable to the paradoxes of men who have read superficially of the ancients, and seen nothing of the moderns, such as De Pauw; who, when he asserts that the British breed of horses is ruined by Newmarket, and that the Spartans were cowards in the field, betrays an equal knowledge of English horses and Spartan men. "His "philosophical observations" have a much better claim to the title of 'poetical." It could not be expected that he who so liberally condemns some of the most celebrated institutions of the ancient, should have mercy on the modern Greeks; and it fortunately happens, that the absurdity of his hypothesis on their forefathers refutes his sentence on themselves.

Let us trust, then, that in spite of the prophecies of De Pauw, and the doubts of Mr. Thornton, there is a reasonable hope of the redemption of a race of men, who, whatever may be the errors of their religion and policy, have been amply punished by three centuries and a half of captivity.

III.

ATHENS, FRANCISCAN CONVENT, March 17, 1811.

"I must have some talk with this learned Theban."

Some time after my return from Constantinople to this city I received the thirty-first number of the Edinburgh Review as a great favor, and certainly at this distance an acceptable one, from the captain of an English frigate off Salamis. In that number, Art 3, containing the review of a French translation of Strabo, there are introduced some remarks on the modern Greeks and their literature, with a short account of Coray, a co-translator in the French version. On those remarks I mean to ground a few observations; and the spot where I now write will, I hope, be sufficient excuse for introducing them in a work in some degree connected with the subject. Coray, the most celebrated of living Greeks, at least among the Franks, was born at Scio (in the Review Smyrna is stated, I have reason to think, incorrectly), and besides the translation of Beccaria and other works mentioned by the Reviewer, has published a lexicon in Romaic and French, if I may trust the assurance of some Danish travellers lately arrived from Paris; but the latest we have seen here in French and Greek is that of Gregory Zolikogloou.* Coray has recently been involved in an unpleasant controversy with M. Gail,† a Parisian commentator and editor of some translations from the Greek poets, in consequence of the Institute having awarded him the prize for his version of Hippocrates, "Peri hudaton," etc., to the disparagement, and consequently displeasure, of the said Gail. To his exertions, literary and patriotic, great praise is undoubtedly due; but a part of that praise ought not to be withheld from the two brothers Zosimado (merchants settled in Leghorn), who sent him to Paris, and maintained him, for the express purpose of elucidating the ancient, and adding to the modern, researches of his countrymen. Coray, however, is not considered by his countrymen equal to some who lived in the two last centuries; more particularly Dorotheus of Mitylene, whose Hellenic writings are so much esteemed by the Greeks, that Meletius terms him "Meta ton Thoukhididen kai Xenophonta aristos Hellenon." (P. 224, Ecclesiastical History, vol. iv.)

Panagiotes Kodrikas, the translator of Fontenelle, and Kamarases, who translated Ocellus Lucanus and the Universe into French, Christodoulus, and more particularly Psalida, whom I have conversed with in Joannina, are also in high repute among their literati. The last-mentioned has published in Romaic and Latin a work on "True Happiness," dedicated to Catherine II. But Polyzois, who is stated by the Reviewer to be the only modern except Coray who has distinguished himself by a knowledge of Hellenic, if he be the Polyzois Lampanitziotes of Yanina, who has published a number of editions in Romaic, was neither more nor less than an itinerant vender of books; with the contents of which he had no concern beyond his name on the title-page, placed there to secure his property in the publication; and he was, moreover, a man utterly destitute of scholastic acquirements. As the name, however, is not uncommon, some other Polyzois may have edited the Epistles of Aristænetus.

It is to be regretted that the system of continental blockade has closed the few channels through which the Greeks received their publications, particularly

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* A word en passant with Mr. Thornton and Dr. Pouqueville, who have been guilty between them of sadly clipping the Sultan's Turkish.

Dr. Pouqueville tells a long story of a Moslem who swallowed corrosive sublimate in such quantities that he acquired the name of "Suleyman Yeyen," i. e., quoth the Doctor, "Suleyman, the eater of corrosive sublimate." "Aha," thinks Mr. Thornton (angry with the Doctor for the fiftieth time), "have I caught you!" Then, in a note twice the thickness of the Doctor's anecdote, he questions the Doctor's proficiency in the Turkish tongue, and his veracity in his own.—"For," observes Mr. Thornton (after inflicting on us the tough participle of a Turkish verb), "it means nothing more than 'Suleyman the eater,'" and quite cashiers the supplementary "sublimate." Now both are right, and both are wrong. If Mr. Thornton, when he next resides "fourteen years in the factory," will consult his Turkish dictionary, or ask any of his Stamboline acquaintance, he will discover that "Suleyma'n yeyen," put together discreetly, mean the "Swallower of sublimate," without any "Suleyman" in the case: "Suleyma" signifying "corrosive sublimate," and not being a proper name on this occasion, although it be an orthodox name enough with the addition of n. After Mr. Thornton's frequent hints of profound Orientalism, he might have found this out before he sang such pæans over Dr. Pouqueville.

After this, I think "Travellers versus Factors" shall be our motto, though the above Mr. Thornton has condemned "hoc genus omne," for mistake and misrepresentation. "Ne Sutor ultra crepidam," "No merchant beyond his bales." N.B. For the benefit of Mr. Thornton, "Sutor" is not a proper name.

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* I have in my possession an excellent lexicon "triglosson," which I received in exchange from S. G—, Esq., for a small gem: my antiquarian friends have never forgotten it, or forgiven me.

† In Gail's pamphlet against Coray, he talks of "throwing the insolent Hellenist out of the windows." On this a French critic exclaims, "Ah, my God! throw an Hellenist out of the window! what sacrilege!" It certainly would be a serious business for those authors who dwell in the attics; but I have quoted the passage merely to prove the similarity of style among the controversalists of all polished countries; London or Edinburgh could hardly parallel this Parisian ebullition.

Venice and Trieste. Even the common grammars for children are become too dear for the lower orders. Amongst their original works the Geography of Meletius, Archbishop of Athens, and a multitude of theological quartos and poetical pamphlets, are to be met with; their grammars and lexicons of two, three, and four languages are numerous and excellent. Their poetry is in rhyme. The most singular piece I have lately seen is a satire in dialogue between a Russian, English, and French traveller, and the Waywode of Wallachia (or Blackbey, as they term him), an archbishop, a merchant, and Cogia Bachi (or primate) in succession; to all of whom under the Turks the writer attributes their present degeneracy. Their songs are sometimes pretty and pathetic, but their tunes generally unpleasing to the ear of a Frank; the best is the famous "Deute paides ton Hellenon," by the unfortunate Riga. But from a catalogue of more than sixty authors, now before me, only fifteen can be found who have touched on any theme except theology.

I am intrusted with a commission by a Greek of Athens named Marmarotouri to make arrangements, if possible, for printing in London a translation of Barthelemi's Anacharsis in Romaic, as he has no other opportunity, unless he despatches the MS. to Vienna by the Black Sea and Danube.

The Reviewer mentions a school established at Hecatonesi, and suppressed at the instigation of Sebastian: he means Cidonies, or, in Turkish, Haivali; a town on the continent, where that institution for a hundred students and three professors still exists. It is true that this establishment was disturbed by the Porte, under the ridiculous pretext that the Greeks were constructing a fortress instead of a college; but on investigation, and the payment of some purses to the Divan, it has been permitted to continue. The principal professor, named Ueniamin (i. e., Benjamin), is stated to be a man of talent, but a freethinker. He was born in Lesbos, studied in Italy, and is a master of Hellenic, Latin, and some Frank languages; besides a smattering of the sciences.

Though it is not my intention to enter farther on this topic than may allude to the article in question, I cannot but observe that the Reviewer's lamentation over the fall of the Greeks appears singular, when he closes it with these words: "The change is to be attributed to their misfortunes rather than to any 'physical degradation.'" It may be true that the Greeks are not physically degenerated, and that Constantinople contained on the day when it changed masters as many men of six feet and upwards as in the hour of prosperity; but ancient history and modern politics instruct us that something more than physical perfection is necessary to preserve a state in vigor and independence; and the Greeks, in particular, are a melancholy example of the near connection between moral degradation and natural decay.

The Reviewer mentions a plan "we believe" by Potemkin for the purification of the Romaic; and I have endeavored in vain to procure any tidings or traces of its existence. There was an academy in St. Petersburg for the Greeks; but it was suppressed by Paul, and has not been revived by his successor.

There is a slip of the pen, and it can only be a slip of the pen, in p. 58, No. 31, of the "Edinburgh Review," where these words occur:—"We are told that when the capital of the East yielded to Solyman"—It may be presumed that this last word will, in a future edition, be altered to Mahomet II.* The "ladies of Constantinople," it seems, at that period spoke a dialect "which would not have disgraced the lips of an Athenian." I do not know how that might be, but am sorry to say the ladies in general, and the Athenians in particular, are much altered; being far from choice either in their dialect or expressions, as the whole Attic race are barbarous to a proverb:—

"O Athena, prote chora,
Ti gaidarous trepheis tora."

In Gibbon, vol. x. p. 161, is the following sentence:—"The vulgar dialect of the city was gross and barbarous, though the compositions of the church and palace sometimes affected to copy the purity of the Attic models." Whatever may be asserted on the subject, it is difficult to conceive that the "ladies of Constantinople," in the reign of the last Cæsar, spoke a purer dialect than Anna Comnena wrote three centuries before; and those royal pages are not esteemed the best models of composition, although the princess "glottan eichen AKRIBOS Attikizousan." In the Fanal, and in Yanina, the best Greek is spoken: in the latter there is a flourishing school under the direction of Psalida.

There is now in Athens a pupil of Psalida's, who is making a tour of observation through Greece: he is intelligent, and better educated than a fellow-commoner of most colleges. I mention this as a proof that the spirit of inquiry is not dormant among the Greeks.

The Reviewer mentions Mr. Wright, the author of the beautiful poem "Horæ Ionicæ," as qualified to give details of these nominal Romans and degenerate Greeks; and also of their language; but Mr. Wright, though a good poet and an able man, has made a mistake where he states the Albanian dialect of the Romaic to approximate nearest to the Hellenic; for the Albanians speak a Romaic as notoriously corrupt as the Scotch of Aberdeenshire, or the Italian of Naples. Yanina (where, next to the Fanal, the Greek is purest), although the capital of Ali Pacha's dominions, is not in Albania, but Epirus; and beyond Delvinachi in Albania Proper up to Argyrocastro and Tepaleen (beyond which I did not advance), they speak worse Greek than even the Athenians. I was attended for a year and a half by two of these singular mountaineers, whose mother tongue is Illyric, and I never heard them or their countrymen (whom I have seen, not only at home, but to the amount of twenty thousand in the army of Vely Pacha), praised for their Greek, but often laughed at for their provincial barbarisms.

I have in my possession about twenty-five letters, amongst which some from the Bey of Corinth, written to me by Notaras, the Cogia Bachi, and others by the dragoman of the Caimacam of the Morea, which last governs in Vely Pacha's absence), are said to be favorable specimens of their epistolary style. I also received some at Constantinople from private persons, written in a most hyperbolical style, but in their true antique character.

The Raviewer proceeds, after some remarks on the tongue in its past and present state, to a paradox (page 59) on the great mischief of the knowledge of his own language has done to Coray, who, it seems, is less likely to understand the ancient Greek, because he is perfect master of the modern! This observation follows a paragraph, recommending, in explicit terms, the study of the Romaic, as "a powerful auxiliary," not only to the traveller and foreign merchant, but also to the classical scholar; in short, to everybody except the only person who can be thoroughly acquainted with its uses; and by a parity of reasoning, our old language is conjectured to be probably more attainable by "foreigners" than by ourselves! Now, I am inclined to think, that a Dutch Tyro in our tongue (albeit himself of Saxon blood) would be sadly perplexed with "Sir Tristrem," or any other given "Auchinleck MS.," with or with-

* In a former number of the Edinburgh Review, 1808, it is observed: "Lord Byron passed some of his early years in Scotland, where he might have learned that pibroch does not mean a bagpipe, any more than duet means a fiddle." Querry—Was it in Scotland that the young gentlemen of the Edinburgh Review learned that Solyman means Mahomet II. any more than criticism means infallibility?—but thus it is,

"Cædimus inque vicem præbemus crura sagittis."

The mistake seemed so completely a lapse of the pen (from the great similarity of the two words, and the total absence of error from the former pages of the literary leviathan), that I should have passed it over as

in the text, had I not perceived in the Edinburgh Review much facetious exultation on all such detections, particularly a recent one, where words and syllables are subjects of disquisition and transposition; and the above-mentioned parallel passage in my own case irresistibly propelled me to hint how much easier it is to be critical than correct. The gentlemen, having enjoyed many a triumph on such victories, will hardly begrudge me a slight ovation for the present.

but a grammar or glossary; and to most apprehensions it seems evident, that none but a native can acquire a competent, far less complete, knowledge of our obsolete idioms. We may give the critic credit for his ingenuity, but no more believe him than we do Smollett's Lismahago, who maintains that the purest English is spoken in Edinburgh. That Coray may err is very possible; but if he does, the fault is in the man rather than in his mother tongue, which is, as it ought to be, of the greatest aid to the native student.—Here the Reviewer proceeds to business on Strabo's translators, and here I close my remarks.

Sir W. Drummond, Mr. Hamilton, Lord Aberdeen, Dr. Clarke, Captain Leake, Mr. Gell, Mr. Walpole, and many others now in England, have all the requisites to furnish details of this fallen people. The few observations I have offered I should have left where I made them, had not the article in question, and above all the spot where I read it, induced me to advert to those pages, which the advantage of my present situation enabled me to clear, or at least to make the attempt.

I have endeavored to waive the personal feelings which rise in despite of me in touching upon any part of the Edinburgh Review; not from a wish to conciliate the favor of its writers, or to cancel the remembrance of a syllable I have formerly published, but simply from a sense of the impropriety of mixing up private resentments with a disquisition of the present kind, and more particularly at this distance of time and place.

Amongst an enslaved people, obliged to have recourse to foreign presses even for their books of religion, it is less to be wondered at that we find so few publications on general subjects than that we find any at all. The whole number of the Greeks, scattered up and down the Turkish empire and elsewhere, may amount, at most, to three millions; and yet, for so scanty a number, it is impossible to discover any nation with so great a proportion of books and their authors as the Grecks of the present century. "Ay," but say the generous advocates of oppression, who, while they assert the ignorance of the Greeks, wish to prevent them from dispelling it, "ay, but these are mostly, if not all, ecclesiastical tracts, and consequently good for nothing." Well! and pray what else can they write about? It is pleasant enough to hear a Frank, particularly an Englishman, who may abuse the government of his own country; or a Frenchman, who may abuse every government except his own, and who may range at will over every philosophical, religious, scientific, sceptical, or moral subject, sneering at the Greek legends. A Greek must not write on politics, and cannot touch on science for want of instruction; if he doubts, he is excommunicated and damned; therefore his countrymen are not poisoned with modern philosophy; and, as to morals, thanks to the Turks! there are no such things. What then is left him, if he has a turn for scribbling? Religion and holy biography: and it is natural enough that those who have so little in this life should look to the next. It is no great wonder, then, that in a catalogue now before me of fifty-five Greek writers, many of whom were lately living, not above fifteen should have touched on anything but religion. The catalogue alluded to is contained in the twenty-sixth chapter of the fourth volume of Meletius' Ecclesiastical History.

Canto II., Stanza lxxiv., p. 168.

["Trembling beneath the scourge of Turkish hand."] The difficulties of travelling in Turkey have been much exaggerated, or rather have considerably diminished, of late years. The Mussulmans have been beaten into a kind of sullen civility very comfortable to voyagers.

It is hazardous to say much on the subject of Turks and Turkey; since it is possible to live amongst them twenty years without acquiring information, at least from themselves. As far as my own slight experience carried me, I have no complaint to make; but am indebted for many civilities (I might also say for friendship, and much hospitality, to Ali Pacha, his son Veli Pacha of the Morea, and several others of high rank in the provinces. Suleyman Aga, late Governor of Athens, and now of Thebes, was a bon vivant, and as social a being as ever sat cross-legged at a tray or a table. During the carnival, when our English party were masquerading, both himself and his successor were more happy to "receive masks," than any dowager in Grosvenor square.

On one occasion of his supping at the convent, his friend and visitor, the Cadi of Thebes, was carried from table perfectly qualified for any club in Christendom; while the worthy Waywode himself triumphed in his fall.

In all money transactions with the Moslems, I ever found the strictest honor, the highest disinterestedness. In transacting business with them, there are none of those dirty peculations, under the name of interest, difference of exchange, commission, etc., etc., uniformly found in applying to a Greek consul to cash bills, even on the first houses in Pera.

With regard to presents, an established custom in the East, you will rarely find yourself a loser; as one worth acceptance is generally returned by another of similar value—a horse, or a shawl.

In the capital and at court the citizens and courtiers are formed in the same school with those of Christianity; but there does not exist a more honorable, friendly, and high-spirited character than the true Turkish provincial Aga, or Moslem country gentleman. It is not meant here to designate the governors of towns; but those Agas who, by a kind of feudal tenure, possess lands and houses, of more or less extent, in Greece and Asia Minor.

The lower orders are in as tolerable discipline as the rabble in countries with greater pretensions to civilization. A Moslem, in walking the streets of our country-towns, would be more incommoded in England than a Frank in a similar situation in Turkey. Regimentals are the best travelling dress.

The best accounts of the religion and different sects of Islamism may be found in D'Ohsson's French; of their manners, etc., perhaps in Thornton's English. The Ottomans, with all their defects, are not a people to be despised. Equal, at least, to the Spaniards, they are superior to the Portuguese. If it be difficult to pronounce what they are, we can at least say what they are not: they are not treacherous, they are not cowardly, they do not burn heretics, they are not assassins, nor has an enemy advanced to their capital. They are faithful to their sultan till he becomes unfit to govern, and devout to their God without an inquisition. Were they driven from St. Sophia to-morrow, and the French or Russians enthroned in their stead, it would become a question whether Europe would gain by the exchange. England would certainly be the loser.

With regard to that ignorance of which they are so generally, and sometimes justly, accused, it may be doubted, always excepting France and England, in what useful points of knowledge they are excelled by other nations. Is it in the common arts of life? In their manufactures? Is a Turkish sabre inferior to a Toledo? or is a Turk worse clothed, or lodged, or fed and taught, than a Spaniard? Are their Pachas worse educated than a Grandee? or an Effendi than a Knight of St. Jago? I think not.

I remember Mahmout, the grandson of Ali Pacha, asking whether my fellow-traveller and myself were in the upper or lower House of Parliament. Now, this question from a boy of ten years old proves that his education had not been neglected. It may be doubted if an English boy at that age knows the difference of the Divan from a College of Dervises; but I am very sure a Spahiard does not. How little Mahmout, surrounded, as he had been, entirely by his Turkish tutors, had learned that there was such a thing as a Parliament, it were useless to conjecture, unless we suppose that his instructors did not confine his studies to the Koran.

In all the mosques there are schools established, which are very regularly attended; and the poor are taught without the church of Turkey being put into peril. I believe the system is not yet printed (though there is such a thing as a Turkish press, and books printed on the late military institution of the Nizam Gedidd); nor have I heard whether the Mufti and the Mollas have subscribed, or the Caimacan and the Tefterdar taken the alarm, for fear the ingenuous youth of the turban should be taught

not to "pray to God their way." The Greeks also—a kind of Eastern Irish Papists—have a college of their own at Maynooth—no, at Haivali; where the heterodox receive much the same kind of countenance from the Ottoman as the Catholic college from the English legislature. Who shall then affirm that the Turks are ignorant bigots, when they thus evince the exact proportion of Christian charity which is tolerated in the most prosperous and orthodox of all possible kingdoms? But though they allow all this, they will not suffer the Greeks to participate in their privileges: no, let them fight their battles, and pay their haratch (taxes), be drubbed in this world, and damned in the next. And shall we then emancipate our Irish Helots? Mahomet forbid! We should then be bad Mussulmans, and worse Christians; at present we unite the best of both—Jesuitical faith, and something not much inferior to Turkish toleration.

CANTO III., STANZA XCI., p. 181.

"Of earth-o'ergazing mountains, and thus take."] It is to be recollected, that the most beautiful and impressive doctrines of the divine Founder of Christianity were delivered, not in the Temple, but on the Mount. To waive the question of devotion, and turn to human eloquence,—the most effectual and splendid specimens were not pronounced within walls. Demosthenes addressed the public and popular assemblies. Cicero spoke in the forum. That this added to the effect on the mind of both orator and hearers, may be conceived from the difference between what we read of the emotions then and there produced, and those we ourselves experience in the perusal in the closet. It is one thing to read the Iliad at Sigæum and on the tumuli, or by the springs with Mount Ida above, and the plain and rivers and Archipelago around you; and another to trim your taper over it in a snug library—this I know. Were the early and rapid progress of what is called Methodism to be attributed to any cause beyond the enthusiasm excited by its vehement faith and doctrines (the truth or error of which I presume neither to canvass nor to question), I should venture to ascribe it to the practice of preaching in the fields, and the unstudied and extemporaneous effusions of its teachers. The Mussulmans, whose erroneous devotion (at least in the lower orders) is most sincere, and therefore impressive, are accustomed to repeat their prescribed orisons and prayers wherever they may be, at the stated hours—of course, frequently in the open air, kneeling upon a light mat (which they carry for the purpose of a bed or cushion as required); the ceremony lasts some minutes, during which they are totally absorbed, and only living in their supplications: nothing can disturb them. On me the simple and entire sincerity of these men, and the spirit which appeared to be within and upon them, made a far greater impression than any general rite which was ever performed in places of worship, of which I have seen those of almost every persuasion under the sun: including most of our own sectaries, and the Greek, the Catholic, the Armenian, the Lutheran, the Jewish, and the Mahometan. Many of the negroes, of whom there are numbers in the Turkish empire, are idolaters, and have free exercise of their belief and its rites; some of these I had a distant view of at Patras; and, from what I could make out of them, they appeared to be of a truly Pagan description, and not very agreeable to a spectator.

CANTO III., STANZA XCIX., p. 182.

"And sun-set into rose-hues sees them wrought."] Rousseau's Heloise, Lettre 17, Part IV., note. "Ces montagnes sont si hautes qu'une demi-heure apres le soleil couche, leurs sommets sont eclaires de ses rayons; dont le rouge forme sur ces cimes blanches une belle couleur de rose, qu'on apercoit de fort loin."—This applies more particularly to the heights over Meillerie. "J'allai a Vevay loger a la Clef, et pendant deux jours que j'y restai sans voir personne, je pris pour cette ville un amour qui m'a suivi dans tous mes voyages, et qui m'y a fait etablir enfin les heros de mon roman. Je dirais volontiers a ceux qui ont du gout et qui sont sensibles: Allez a Vevay—visitez le pays, examinez les sites, promenez-vous sur le lac, et dites si la Nature n'a pas fait ce beau pays pour une Julie, pour une Claire, et pour un St. Preux; mais ne les y cherchez pas."—"Les Confessions," livre iv. p. 306. Lyon, ed. 1796.—In July, 1816, I made a voyage round the Lake of Geneva: and, as far as my own observations have led me in a not uninterested nor inattentive survey of all the scenes most celebrated by Rousseau in his "Heloise," I can safely say, that in this there is no exaggeration. It would be difficult to see Clarens with the scenes around it, Vevay, Chillon, Bovaret, St. Gingo, Meillerie, Elivan, and the entrances of the Rhone without being forcibly struck with its peculiar adaptation to the persons and events with which it has been peopled. But this is not all; the feeling with which all around Clarens, and the opposite rocks of Meillerie, is invested, is of a still higher and more comprehensive order than the mere sympathy with individual passion: it is a sense of the existence of love in its most extended and sublime capacity, and of our own participation of its good and of its glory: it is the great principle of the universe, which is there more condensed, but not less manifested; and of which, though knowing ourselves a part, we lose our individuality, and mingle in the beauty of the whole.—If Rousseau had never written, nor lived, the same associations would not less have belonged to such scenes. He has added to the interest of his works by their adoption: he has shown his sense of their beauty by the selection; but they have done that for him which no human being could do for them. I had the fortune (good or evil as it might be) to sail from Meillerie where we landed for some time to St. Gingo during a lake storm, which added to the magnificence of all around, although occasionally accompanied by danger to the boat, which was small and overloaded. It was over this very part of the lake that Rousseau has driven the boat of St. Preux and Madame Wolmar to Meillerie for shelter during a tempest. On gaining the shore at St. Gingo, I found that the wind had been sufficiently strong to blow down some fine old chestnut trees on the lower part of the mountains. On the opposite height of Clarens is a chateau. The hills are covered with vineyards, and interspersed with some small but beautiful woods: one of these was named the "Bosquet de Julie"; and it is remarkable that, though long ago cut down by the brutal selfishness of the monks of St. Bernard (to whom the land appertained), that the ground might be enclosed into a vineyard for the miserable drones of an execrable superstition, the inhabitants of Clarens still point out the spot where its trees stood, calling it by the name which consecrated and survived them. Rousseau has not been particularly fortunate in the preservation of the "local habitations" he has given to "airy nothings." The Prior of Great St. Bernard has cut down some of his woods for the sake of a few casks of wine, and Buonaparte has levelled part of the rocks of Meillerie in improving the road to the Simplon. The road is an excellent one; but I cannot quite agree with a remark which I heard made, that "La route vaut mieux que les souvenirs."

THE CORSAIR.

CANTO III., PARAGRAPH XXIV., p. 248.

"Link'd with one virtue, and a thousand crimes."] That the point of honor which is represented in one instance of Conrad's character has not been carried beyond the bounds of probability, may perhaps be in some degree confirmed by the following anecdote of a brother buccaneer in the year 1814:—"Our readers have all seen the account of the enterprise against the pirates of Barrataria; but few, we believe, were informed of the situation, history, or nature of that establishment. For the information of such as were unacquainted with it, we have procured from a friend the following interesting narrative of the main facts, of which he has personal knowledge, and which cannot fail to interest some of our readers:—Barrataria is a bay, or a narrow arm, of the Gulf of Mexico; it runs through a rich but very flat country, until it reaches within a mile of the Mississippi river, fifteen miles below the city

of New Orleans. The bay has branches almost innumerable, in which persons can lie concealed from the severest scrutiny. It communicates with three lakes which lie on the southwest side, and these, with the lake of the same name, and which lies contiguous to the sea, where there is an island formed by the two arms of this lake and the sea. The east and west points of this island were fortified, in the year 1811, by a band of pirates, under the command of one Monsieur La Fitte. A large majority of these outlaws are of that class of the population of the State of Louisiana who fled from the island of St. Domingo during the troubles there, and took refuge in the island of Cuba; and when the last war between France and Spain commenced, they were compelled to leave that island with the short notice of a few days. Without ceremony they entered the United States, the most of them the State of Louisiana, with all the negroes they had possessed in Cuba. They were notified by the Governor of that State of the clause in the constitution which forbade the importation of slaves; but, at the same time, received the assurance of the Governor that he would obtain, if possible, the approbation of the General Government for their retaining this property. The island of Barrataria is situated about lat. 29 deg. 15 min., lon. 92, 30.; and is as remarkable for its health as for the superior scale and shell fish with which its waters abound. The chief of this horde, like Charles de Moor, had mixed with his many vices, some virtues. In the year 1813, this party had, from its turpitude and boldness, claimed the attention of the Governor of Louisiana; and to break up the establishment he thought proper to strike at the head. He therefore offered a reward of 500 dollars for the head of Monsieur La Fitte, who was well known to the inhabitants of the city of New Orleans, from his immediate connection, and his once having been a fencing-master in that city of great reputation, which art he learned in Buonaparte's army, where he was a captain. The reward which was offered by the Governor for the head of La Fitte was answered by the offer of a reward from the latter of $15,000 for the head of the Governor. The Governor ordered out a company to march from the city to La Fitte's island, and to burn and destroy the property, and to bring to the city of New Orleans all its banditti. This company, under the command of a man who had been the intimate associate of this bold Captain, approached very near to the fortified island, before he saw a man, or heard a sound, until he heard a whistle, not unlike a boatswain's call. Then it was he found himself surrounded by armed men who had emerged from the secret avenues which led into Bayou. Here it was that the modern Charles de Moor developed his few noble traits; for to this man, who had come to destroy his life and all that was dear to him, he not only spared his life, but offered him that which would have made the honest soldier easy for the remainder of his days; which was indignantly refused. He then, with the approbation of his captor, returned to the city. This circumstance, and some concomitant events, proved that this band of pirates was not to be taken by land. Our naval force having always been small in that quarter, exertions for the destruction of this illicit establishment could not be expected from them until augmented; for an officer of the navy, with most of the gun-boats on that station, had to retreat from an overwhelming force of La Fitte's. So soon as the augmentation of the navy authorized an attack, one was made; and the overthrow of this banditti has been the result: and now this almost invulnerable point and key to New Orleans is clear of an enemy, it is to be hoped the government will hold it by a strong military force."—American Newspaper.

In Noble's continuation of "Granger's Biographical History," there is a singular passage in his account of Archbishop Blackbourne; and as in some measure connected with the profession of the hero of the foregoing poem, I cannot resist the temptation of extracting it.—"There is something mysterious in the history and character of Dr. Blackbourne. The former is but imperfectly known; and report has even asserted he was a buccaneer; and that one of his brethren in that profession having asked, on his arrival in England, what had become of his old chum, Blackbourne, was answered, he is Archbishop of York. We are informed that Blackbourne was installed sub-dean of Exeter in 1694, which office he resigned in 1702; but after his successor Lewis Barnet's death, in 1704, he regained it. In the following year he became dean; and in 1714 held with it the archdeanery of Cornwall. He was consecrated Bishop of Exeter, February 24, 1716; and translated to York, November 28, 1724, as a reward, according to court scandal, for uniting George I. to the Duchess of Munster. This, however, appears to have been an unfounded calumny. As archbishop he behaved with great prudence, and was equally respectable as the guardian of the revenues of the see. Rumor whispered he retained the vices of his youth, and that a passion for the fair sex formed an item in the list of his weaknesses; but so far from being convicted by seventy witnesses, he does not appear to have been directly criminated by one. In short, I look upon these aspersions as the effects of mere malice. How is it possible a buccaneer should have been so good a scholar as Blackbourne certainly was? He who had so perfect a knowledge of the classics (particularly of the Greek tragedians), as to be able to read them with the same ease as he could Shakspeare, must have taken great pains to acquire the learned languages, and have had both leisure and good masters. But he was undoubtedly educated at Christchurch College, Oxford. He is allowed to have been a pleasant man; this, however, was turned against him, by its being said, 'he gained more hearts than souls.'"

"The only voice that could soothe the passions of the savage (Alphonso III.), was that of an amiable and virtuous wife, the sole object of his love; the voice of Donna Isabella, the daughter of the Duke of Savoy, and the grand-daughter of Philip II., King of Spain.—Her dying words sunk deep into his memory; his fierce spirit melted into tears; and, after the last embrace, Alphonso retired into his chamber to bewail his irreparable loss, and to meditate on the vanity of human life."—Gibbon's Miscellaneous Works, vol. iii., p. 473.

LARA.

Canto II., Paragraph xxiv., p. 260.

"A Serf that cross'd the intervening vale.") The event in this section was suggested by the description of the death, or rather burial, of the Duke of Gandia. The most interesting and particular account of it is given by Burchard, and is in substance as follows:—"On the eighth day of June, the Cardinal of Valenza and the Duke of Gandia, sons of the pope, supped with their mother, Vanozza, near the church of S. Pietro ad vincula; several other persons being present at the entertainment. A late hour approaching, and the Cardinal having reminded his brother that it was time to return to the apostolic palace, they mounted their horses or mules, with only a few attendants, and proceeded together as far as the palace of Cardinal Ascanio Sforza, when the Duke informed the Cardinal that, before he returned home, he had te pay a visit of pleasure. Dismissing therefore all his attendants, excepting his staffiero, or footman, and a person in a mask, who had paid him a visit whilst at supper, and who, during the space of a month or thereabouts, previous to this time, had called upon him almost daily at the apostolic palace, he took this person behind him on his mule, and proceeded to the street of the Jews, where he quitted his servant, directing him to remain there until a certain hour; when, if he did not return, he might repair to the palace. The Duke then seated the person in the mask behind him, and rode, I know not whither; but in that night he was assassinated, and thrown into the river. The servant, after having been dismissed, was also assaulted and mortally wounded; and although he was attended with great care, yet such was his situation, that he could give no intelligible account of what had befallen his master. In the morning, the Duke not having returned to the palace, his servants began to be alarmed; and one of them informed the pontiff of the evening excursion of his sons, and that the Duke had not yet made his appearance. This gave the pope no small anxiety; but he conjectured that the Duke had been attracted by some

courtesan to pass the night with her, and, not choosing to quit the house in open day, had waited till the following evening to return home. When, however, the evening arrived, and he found himself disappointed in his expectations, he became deeply afflicted, and began to make inquiries from different persons, whom he ordered to attend him for that purpose. Amongst these was a man named Giorgio Schiavoni, who, having discharged some timber from a bark in the river, had remained on board the vessel to watch it; and being interrogated whether he had seen any one thrown into the river on the night preceding, he replied, that he saw two men on foot, who came down the street, and looked diligently about, to observe whether any person was passing. That seeing no one, they returned, and a short time afterwards two others came, and looked around in the same manner as the former; no person still appearing, they gave a sign to their companions, when a man came, mounted on a white horse, having behind him a dead body, the head and arms of which hung on one side, and the feet on the other side of the horse; the two persons on foot supporting the body, to prevent its falling. They thus proceeded towards that part where the filth of the city is usually discharged into the river, and turning the horse, with his tail towards the water, the two persons took the dead body by the arms and feet, and with all their strength flung it into the river. The person on horseback then asked if they had thrown it in: to which they replied, Signor, si (yes, Sir). He then looked towards the river, and seeing a mantle floating on the stream, he inquired what it was that appeared black, to which they answered, it was a mantle; and one of them threw stones upon it, in consequence of which it sunk. The attendants of the pontiff then inquired from Giorgio, why he had not revealed this to the governor of the city; to which he replied, that he had seen in his time a hundred dead bodies thrown into the river at the same place, without any inquiry being made respecting them; and that he had not, therefore, considered it as a matter of any importance. The fishermen and seamen were then collected, and ordered to search the river, where, on the following evening, they found the body of the Duke, with his habit entire, and thirty ducats in his purse. He was pierced with nine wounds, one of which was in his throat, the others in his head, body and limbs. No sooner was the pontiff informed of the death of his son, and that he had been thrown, like filth, into the river, than, giving way to his grief, he shut himself up in a chamber, and wept bitterly. The Cardinal of Segovia, and other attendants on the pope, went to the door, and after many hours spent in persuasions and exhortations, prevailed upon him to admit them. From the evening of Wednesday till the following Saturday the pope took no food; nor did he sleep from Thursday morning till the same hour on the ensuing day. At length, however, giving way to the entreaties of his attendants, he began to restrain his sorrow, and to consider the injury which his own health might sustain by the further indulgence of his grief."—ROSCOE'S Leo Tenth, vol. i., p. 265.

PARISINA.

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This turned out a calamitous year for the people of Ferrara, for there occurred a very tragical event in the court of their sovereign. Our annals, both printed and in manuscript, with the exception of the unpolished and negligent work of Sarpi, and one other, have given the following relation of it,—from which, however, are rejected many details, and especially the narrative of Bandelli, who wrote a century afterwards, and who does not accord with the contemporary historians.

"By the above-mentioned Stella dell' Assassino, the Marquis, in the year 1405, had a son called Ugo, a beautiful and ingenuous youth. Parisina Maletesta, second wife of Niccolo, like the generality of stepmothers, treated him with little kindness, to the infinite regret of the Marquis, who regarded him with fond partiality. One day she asked leave of her husband to undertake a certain journey, to which he consented, but upon condition that Ugo should bear her company; for he hoped by these means to induce her, in the end, to lay aside the obstinate aversion which she had conceived against him. And indeed his intent was accomplished but too well, since, during the journey, she not only divested herself of all her hatred, but fell into the opposite extreme. After their return, the Marquis had no longer any occasion to renew his former reproofs. It happened one day that a servant of the Marquis, named Zoese, or as some call him, Giorgio, passing before the apartments of Parisina, saw going out from them one of her chambermaids, all terrified and in tears. Asking the reason, she told him that her mistress, for some slight offence, had been beating her; and giving vent to her rage, she added, that she could easily be revenged, if she chose to make known the criminal familiarity which subsisted between Parisina and her step-son. The servant took note of the words, and related them to his master. He was astounded thereat, but, scarcely believing his ears, he assured himself of the act, alas! too clearly, on the 18th of May, by looking through a hole made in the ceiling of his wife's chamber. Instantly he broke into a furious rage, and arrested both of them, together with Aldobrandino Rangoni, of Modena, her gentleman, and also, as some say, two of the women of her chamber, as abettors of his sinful act. He ordered them to be brought to a hasty trial, desiring the judges to pronounce sentence, in the accustomed forms, upon the culprits. This sentence was death. Some there were that bestirred themselves in favor of the delinquents, and amongst others, Ugoccion Contrario, who was all-powerful with Niccolo, and also his aged and much-deserving minister, Alberto dal Sale. Both of these, their tears flowing down their cheeks, and upon their knees, implored him for mercy; adducing whatever reasons they could suggest for sparing the offenders, besides those motives of honor and decency which might persuade him to conceal from the public so scandalous a deed. But his rage made him inflexible, and, on the instant, he commanded that sentence should be put in execution.

"It was, then, in the prisons of the castle, and exactly in those frightful dungeons which are seen at this day beneath the chamber called the Aurora, at the foot of the Lion's tower, at the top of the street Giovecca, that on the night of the 21st of May were beheaded, first Ugo, and afterwards Parisina. Zoese, he that accused her, conducted the latter under his arm to the place of punishment. She, all along, fancied that she was to be thrown into a pit, and asked at every step, whether she was yet come to the spot? She was told that her punishment was the axe. She inquired what was become of Ugo, and received for answer, that he was already dead; at the which, sighing grievously, she exclaimed, "Now, then, I wish not myself to live"; and, being come to the block, she stripped herself with her own hands of all her ornaments, and, wrapping a cloth around her head, submitted to the fatal stroke, which terminated the cruel scene. The same was done with Rangoni, who, together with the others, according to two calendars in the library of St. Francesco, was buried in the cemetery of that convent. Nothing else is known respecting the women.

"The Marquis kept watch the whole of that dreadful night, and as he was walking backwards and forwards inquired of the captain of the castle if Ugo was dead yet? who answered him, Yes. He then gave himself up to the most desperate lamentations, exclaiming, "Oh that I too were dead, since I have been hurried on to resolve thus against my own Ugo!" And then gnawing with his teeth a cane which he had in his hand, he passed the rest of the night in sighs and in tears, calling frequently upon his own dear Ugo. On the following day, calling to mind that it would be necessary to make public his justification, seeing that the transaction could not be kept secret, he ordered the narrative to be drawn out upon paper, and sent it to all the courts of Italy.

"On receiving this advice, the Doge of Venice, Francesco Foscari, gave orders, but without publishing his reasons, that stop should be put to the preparations for a tournament, which, under the

auspices of the Marquis, and at the expense of the city of Padua, was about to take place, in the square of St. Mark, in order to celebrate his advancement to the ducal chair.

"The Marquis, in addition to what he had already done, from some inaccountable burst of vengeance, commanded that as many of the married women as were well known to him to be faithless, like his Parisina, should, like her, be beheaded. Amongst others, Barberina, or, as some call her, Laodamia Romei, wife of the court judge, underwent this sentence at the usual place of execution; that is to say, in the quarter of St. Giacomo, opposite the present fortress, beyond St. Paul's. It cannot be told how strange appeared this proceeding in a prince, who, considering his own disposition, should, as it seemed, have been in such cases most indulgent. Some, however, there were who did not fail to commend him."

MARINO FALIERO, DOGE OF VENICE.

APPENDIX.

Note A.

I am obliged for the following excellent translation of the old Chronicle to Mr. F. Cohen, to whom the reader will find himself indebted for a version that I could not myself—though after many years' intercourse with Italian—have given by any means so purely and so faithfully.

STORY OF MARINO FALIERO, DOGE XLIX. MCCCLIV.

On the eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord 1354, Marino Faliero was elected and chosen to be the Duke of the Commonwealth of Venice. He was Count of Valdemarino, in the Marches of Treviso, and a knight, and a wealthy man to boot. As soon as the election was completed, it was resolved in the Great Council, that a deputation of twelve should be despatched to Marino Faliero the Duke, who was then on his way from Rome; for when he was chosen he was ambassador at the court of the Holy Father, at Rome,—the Holy Father himself held his court at Avignon. When Messer Marino Faliero the Duke was about to land in this city, on the 5th day of October, 1354, a thick haze came on and darkened the air; and he was enforced to land on the place of St. Mark, between the two columns, on the spot where evil-doers are put to death; and all thought that this was the worst of tokens.—Nor must I forget to write that which I have read in a chronicle. When Messer Marino Faliero was Podesta and Captain of Treviso, the Bishop delayed coming in with the holy sacrament, on a day when a procession was to take place. Now, the said Marino Faliero was so very proud and wrathful, that he buffeted the Bishop, and almost struck him to the ground; and, therefore, Heaven allowed Marino Faliero to go out of his right senses, in order that he might bring himself to an evil death.

When this Duke had held the dukedom during nine months and six days, he, being wicked and ambitious, sought to make himself Lord of Venice, in the manner which I have read in an ancient chronicle. When the Thursday arrived upon which they were wont to hunt the bull, the bull hunt took place as usual; and, according to the usage of those times, after the bull hunt had ended, they all proceeded unto the palace of the Duke, and assembled together in one of his halls; and they disported themselves with the women. And until the first bell tolled they danced, and then a banquet was served up. My Lord the Duke paid the expenses thereof, provided he had a Duchess, and after the banquet they all returned to their homes.

Now to this feast there came a certain Ser Michele Steno, a gentleman of poor estate and very young, but crafty and daring, and who loved one of the damsels of the Duchess. Ser Michele stood amongst the women upon the solajo; and he behaved indiscreetly, so that my Lord the Duke ordered that he should be kicked off the solajo; and the esquires of the Duke flung him down from the solajo accordingly. Ser Michele thought that such an affront was beyond all bearing; and when the feast was over, and all other persons had left the palace, he, continuing heated with anger, went to the hall of audience, and wrote certain unseemly words relating to the Duke and the Duchess upon the chair in which the Duke was used to sit; for in those days the Duke did not cover his chair with cloth of sendal, but he sat in a chair of wood. Ser Michele wrote thereon—"Marin Falier, the husband of the fair wife; others kiss her, but he keeps her." In the morning the words were seen, and the matter was considered to be very scandalous; and the Senate commanded the Avogadori of the Commonwealth to proceed therein with the greatest diligence. A largess of great amount was immediately proffered by the Avogadori, in order to discover who had written these words. And at length it was known that Michele Steno had written them. It was resolved in the Council of Forty that he should be arrested; and he then confessed that in the fit of vexation and spite, occasioned by his being thrust off the solajo in the presence of his mistress, he had written the words. Therefore the Council debated thereon. And the Council took his youth into consideration, and that he was a lover; and therefore they adjudged that he should be kept in close confinement during two months, and that afterwards he should be banished from Venice and the state during one year. In consequence of this merciful sentence the Duke became exceedingly wroth, it appearing to him, that the Council had not acted in such a manner as was required by the respect due to his ducal dignity; and he said that they ought to have condemned Ser Michele to be hanged by the neck, or at least to be banished for life.

Now it was fated that my Lord Duke Marino was to have his head cut off. And as it is necessary, when any effect is to be brought about, that the cause of such effect must happen, it therefore came to pass, that on the very day after sentence had first day of Lent, a gentleman of the house of Barbaro, a choleric gentleman, went to the arsenal, and required certain things of the masters of the galleys. This he did in the presence of the Admiral of the arsenal, and he, hearing the request, answered,—No, it cannot be done. High words arose between the gentleman and the Admiral, and the gentleman struck him with his fist just above the eye: and as he happened to have a ring on his finger, the ring cut the Admiral and drew blood. The Admiral, all bruised and bloody, ran straight to the Duke to complain; and with the intent of praying him to inflict some heavy punishment upon the gentleman of Ca Barbaro.—"What wouldst thou have me do for thee?" answered the Duke:—"think upon the shameful gibe which hath been written concerning me; and think on the manner in which they have punished that ribald Michele Steno, who wrote it; and see how the Council of Forty respect our person."—Upon this the Admiral answered,—"My Lord Duke, if you would wish to make yourself a prince, and to cut all those cuckoldy gentlemen to pieces, I have the heart, if you do but help me, to make you prince of all this state; and then you may punish them all." Hearing this, the Duke said,—"How can such a matter be brought about?"—and so they discoursed thereon.

The Duke called for his nephew, Ser Bertuccio Faliero, who lived with him in the palace, and they communed about this plot. And without leaving the place, they sent for Philip Calendaro, a seaman of great repute, and for Bertuccio Israello, who was exceedingly wily and cunning. Then taking counsel amongst themselves, they agreed to call in some others: and so, for several nights successively, they met with the Duke at home in his palace. And the following men were called in singly; to wit:—Niccolo Fagiuolo, Giovanni da Corfu, Stefano Fagiono, Niccolo dalle Bende, Niccolo Biondo, and Stefano Trivisano.—It was concerted that sixteen or seventeen leaders should be stationed in various parts of the city, each being at the head of forty men, armed and prepared; but the followers were not to know their destination. On the appointed day they were to make affrays amongst themselves here and there, in order that the Duke might have a pretence for tolling the bells of San Marco; these bells are never rung but by the order of the Duke. And at the sound of the bells, these sixteen or seventeen, with

their followers, were to come to San Marco, through the streets which open upon the Piazza. And when the noble and leading citizens should come into the Piazza, to know the cause of the riot, then the conspirators were to cut them in pieces; and this work being finished, my Lord Marino Faliero the Duke was to be proclaimed the Lord of Venice. Things having been thus settled, they agreed to fulfil their intent on Wednesday, the 15th day of April, in the year 1355. So covertly did they plot, that no one ever dreamt of their machinations.

But the Lord, who hath always helped this most glorious city, and who, loving its righteousness and holiness, hath never forsaken it, inspired one Beltramo Bergamasco to be the cause of bringing the plot to light, in the following manner. This Beltramo, who belonged to Ser Niccolo Lioni, of Santo Stefano, had heard a word or two of what was to take place; and so, in the above-mentioned month of April, he went to the house of the aforesaid Ser Niccolo Lioni, and told him all the particulars of the plot. Ser Niccolo, when he heard all these things, was struck dead, as it were, with affright. He heard all the particulars: and Beltramo prayed him to keep it all secret; and if he told Ser Niccolo, it was in order that Ser Niccolo might stop at home on the 15th of April, and thus save his life. Beltramo was going, but Ser Niccolo ordered his servants to lay hands upon him, and lock him up. Ser Niccolo then went to the house of Messer Giovanni Gradenigo Nasoni, who afterwards became Duke, and who also lived at Santo Stefano, and told him all. The matter seemed to him to be of the very greatest importance, as indeed it was; and they two went to the house of Ser Marco Cornaro, who lived at San Felice; and, having spoken with him, they all three then determined to go back to the house of Ser Niccolo Lioni, to examine the said Beltramo; and having questioned him, and heard all that he had to say, they left him in confinement. And then they all three went into the sacristy of San Salvatore, and sent their men to summon the Councillors, the Avogadori, the Capi de' Dieci, and those of the Great Council.

When all were assembled, the whole story was told to them. They were struck dead, as it were, with affright. They determined to send for Beltramo. He was brought in before them. They examined him, and ascertained that the matter was true; and although they were exceedingly troubled, yet they determined upon their measures. And they sent for the Capi de' Quarante, the Signori di Notte, the Capi de' Sestiera, and the Cinque della Pace; and they were ordered to associate to their men other good men and true, who were to proceed to the houses of the ringleaders of the conspiracy, and secure them. And they secured the foreman of the arsenal, in order that the conspirators might not do mischief. Towards nightfall they assembled in the palace. When they were assembled in the palace, they caused the gates of the quadrangle of the palace to be shut. And they sent to the keeper of the Bell-tower, and forbade the tolling of the bells. All this was carried into effect. The beforementioned conspirators were secured, and they were brought to the palace; and, as the Council of Ten saw that the Duke was in the plot, they resolved that twenty of the leading men of the state should be associated to them, for the purpose of consultation and deliberation, but that they should not be allowed to ballot.

The councillors were the following:—Ser Giovanni Moceniko, of the Sestiero of San Marco; Ser Almoro Veniero da Santa Marina, of the Sestiero of Castello; Ser Tomaso Viadro, of the Sestiero of Canaregio: Ser Giovanni Sanudo, of the Sestiero of Santa Croce; Ser Pietro Trivisano, of the Sestiero of San Paolo; Ser Pantalione Barbo il Grando, of the Sestiero of Ossoduro. The Avogadori of the Commonwealth were Zufredo Morosini, and Ser Orio Pasqualigo; and these did not ballot. Those of the Council of Ten were Ser Giovanni Marcello, Ser Tomaso Sanudo, and Ser Micheletto Dolfino, the heads of the aforesaid Council of Ten. Ser Luca da Legge, and Ser Pietro da Mosto, inquisitors of the aforesaid Council. And Ser Marco Polani, Ser Marino Veniero, Ser Lando Lombardo, and Ser Nicoletto Trivisano, of Sant' Angelo.

Late in the night, just before the dawning, they chose a junta of twenty noblemen of Venice from amongst the wisest, and the worthiest, and the oldest. They were to give counsel, but not to ballot. And they would not admit any one of Ca Faliero. And Niccolo Faliero, and another Niccolo Faliero, of San Tomaso, were expelled from the Council, because they belonged to the family of the Doge. And this resolution of creating the junta of twenty was much praised throughout the state. The following were the members of the junta of twenty:—Ser Marco Giustiniani, Procuratore, Ser Andrea Erizzo, Procuratore, Ser Lionardo Giustiniani, Procuratore, Ser Andrea Contarini, Ser Simone Dandolo, Ser Niccolo Volpe, Ser Giovanni Loredano, Ser Marco Diedo, Ser Giovanni Gradenigo, Ser Andrea Cornaro, Cavaliere, Ser Marco Soranzo, Ser Rinieri du Mosto, Ser Gazano Marcello, Ser Marino Morosini, Ser Stefano Belegno, Ser Niccolo Lioni, Ser Filippo Orio, Ser Marco Trivisano, Ser Jacopo Bragadino, Ser Giovanni Foscarini.

These twenty were accordingly called in to the Council of Ten; and they sent for my Lord Marino Faliero, the Duke: and my Lord Marino was then consorting in the palace with people of great estate, gentlemen, and other good men, none of whom knew yet how the fact stood.

At the same time Bertucci Israello, who, as one of the ringleaders, was to head the conspirators in Santa Croce, was arrested and bound, and brought before the Council. Zanello del Brin, Nicoletto di Rosa, Nicoletto Alberto, and the Guardiaga, were also taken, together with several seamen, and people of various ranks. These were examined, and the truth of the plot was ascertained.

On the 16th of April judgment was given in the Council of Ten, that Filippo Calendaro and Bertuccio Israello should be hanged upon the red pillars of the balcony of the palace, from which the Duke is wont to look at the bull hunt: and they were hanged with gags in their mouths.

The next day the following were condemned:—Niccolo Zuccuolo, Nicoletto Biondo, Nicoletto Doro, Marco Giuda, Jacomello Dagolino, Nicoletto Fidele, the son of Filippo Calendaro, Marco Torello, called Israello, Stefano Trivisano, the money-changer of Santa Margherita, and Antonio dalle Bende. These were all taken at Chiozza, for they were endeavoring to escape. Afterwards, by virtue of the sentence which was passed upon them in the Council of Ten, they were hanged on successive days, some singly and some in couples, upon the columns of the palace, beginning from the red columns, and so going onwards towards the canal. And other prisoners were discharged, because, although they had been involved in the conspiracy, yet they had not assisted in it; for they were given to understand by some of the heads of the plot, that they were to come armed and prepared for the service of the state, and in order to secure certain criminals; and they knew nothing else. Nicoletto Alberto, the Guardiaga, and Bartolommeo Giricolo and his son, and several others, who were not guilty, were discharged.

On Friday, the 16th day of April, judgment was also given in the aforesaid Council of Ten, that my Lord Marino Faliero, the Duke, should have his head cut off; and that the execution should be done on the landing-place of the stone staircase, where the Dukes take their oath when they first enter the palace. On the following day, the 17th of April, the doors of the palace being shut, the Duke had his head cut off, about the hour of noon. And the cap of estate was taken from the Duke's head before he came down-stairs. When the execution was over, it is said that one of the Council of Ten went to the columns of the palace over against the place of St. Mark, and that he showed the bloody sword unto the people, crying out with a loud voice—"The terrible doom hath fallen upon the traitor!"—and the doors were opened, and the people all rushed in, to see the corpse of the Duke, who had been beheaded.

It must be known that Ser Giovanni Sanudo, the councillor, was not present when the aforesaid sentence was pronounced; because he was unwell and remained at home. So that only fourteen balloted; that is to say, five councillors, and nine of the Council of Ten. And it was adjudged, that all the lands and chattels of the Duke, as well as of the other traitors, should be forfeited to the state. And as a grace to the Duke, it was resolved in the Council of Ten, that he should be allowed to dispose of two thousand ducats out of his own property. And it

was resolved, that all the councillors, and all the Avogadori of the Commonwealth, those of the Council of Ten, and the members of the junta, who had assisted in passing sentence on the Duke and the other traitors, should have the privilege of carrying arms both by day and by night in Venice, and from Grado to Cavazere. And they were also to be allowed two footmen carrying arms, the aforesaid footmen living and boarding with them in their own houses. And he who did not keep two footmen might transfer the privilege to his sons or his brothers; but only to two. Permission of carrying arms was also granted to the four Notaries of the Chancery, that is to say, of the Supreme Court, who took the depositions; and they were, Amedio, Nicoletto di Lorino, Steffanello, and Pietro de Compostelli, the secretaries of the Signori di Notte.

After the traitors had been hanged, and the Duke had his head cut off, the state remained in great tranquillity and peace. And, as I have read in a Chronicle, the corpse of the Duke was removed in a barge, with eight torches, to his tomb in the church of San Giovanni e Paolo, where it was buried. The tomb is now in that aisle in the middle of the little church of Santa Maria della Pace, which was built by Bishop Gabriel of Bergamo. It is a coffin of stone, with these words engraven thereon:—"Hic jacet Dominus Marinus Faletro Dux."—And they did not paint his portrait in the hall of the Great Council:—but in the place where it ought to have been, you see these words:—"Hic est locus Marini Faletro, decapitati pro criminibus."—And it is thought that his house was granted to the church of Sant' Apostolo; it was that great one near the bridge. Yet this could not be the case, or else the family bought it back from the church; for it still belongs to Ca Faliero. I must not refrain from noting, that some wished to write the following words in the place where his portrait ought to have been, as aforesaid:—"Marinus Faletro Dux, temeritas me cepit. Pœnas lui, decapitatus pro criminibus."—Others, also, indited a couplet, worthy of being inscribed upon his tomb.

"Dux Venetum jacet heic, patriam qui prodere tentans,
Sceptra, decus, censum perdidit, atque caput."

NOTE B.

PETRARCH ON THE CONSPIRACY OF MARINO FALIERO.

The Italian translation from the Latin Epistles of Petrarch (LEVATI, "Viaggi di Petrarca," vol. iv., p. 323) proves—Firstly, That Marino Faliero was a personal friend of Petrarch's: "antica dimestichezza," old intimacy, is the phrase of the poet. Secondly, That Petrarch thought that he had more courage than conduct, "più di corragio che di senno." Thirdly, That there was some jealousy on the part of Petrarch; for he says that Marino Faliero was treating of the peace which he himself had "vainly attempted to conclude." Fourthly, That the honor of the Dukedom was conferred upon him, which he neither sought nor expected, "che ne chiedeva ne aspettava," and which thad never been granted to any other in like circumstances," "cio che non si concedette a nessun altro," a proof of the high esteem in which he must have been held. Fifthly, That he had a reputation for wisdom, only forfeited by the last enterprise of his life, "si usurpo per tanti anni una falsa fama di sapienza."—"He had usurped for so many years a false fame of wisdom," rather a difficult task, I should think. People are generally found out before eighty years of age, at least in a republic.—From these, and the other historical notes which I have collected, it may be inferred that Marino Faliero possessed many of the qualities, but not the success of a hero; and that his passions were too violent. The paltry and ignorant account of Dr. Moore falls to the ground. Petrarch says, "That there had been no greater event in his times" ("our times" literally), "nostri tempi," in Italy. He also differs from the historian in saying that Faliero was "on the banks of the Rhone," instead of at Rome, when elected; the other accounts say, that the deputation of the Venetian senate met him at Ravenna. How this may have been, it is not for me to decide, and is of no great importance. Had the man succeeded, he would have changed the face of Venice, and perhaps of Italy. As it is, what are they both?

NOTE C.

VENETIAN SOCIETY AND MANNERS.

"Vice without splendor, sin without relief
Even from the gloss of love to smooth it o'er;
But, in its stead, coarse lusts of habitude," etc.
[See p. 378.]

"To these attacks so frequently pointed by the government against the clergy,—to the continual struggles between the different constituted bodies,—to these enterprises carried on by the mass of the nobles against the depositaries of power,—to all those projects of innovation, which always ended by a stroke of state policy, we must add a cause not less fitted to spread contempt for ancient doctrines; this was the excess of corruption.

That freedom of manners, which had been long boasted of as the principal charm of Venetian society, had degenerated into scandalous licentiousness: the tie of marriage was less sacred in that Catholic country, than among those nations where the laws and religion admit of its being dissolved. Because they could not break the contract, they feigned that it had not existed; and the grounds of nullity immediately alleged by the married pair, was admitted with equal facility by priests and magistrates, alike corrupt. These divorces, veiled under another name, became so frequent that the most important act of civil society was discovered to be amenable to a tribunal of exceptions; and to restrain the open scandal of such proceedings became the office of the police. In 1782 the Council of Ten decreed, that every woman who should sue for a dissolution of her marriage should be compelled to wait the decision of the judges in some convent, to be named by the court.* Soon afterwards the same council summoned all causes of that nature before itself.† This infringement on ecclesiastical jurisdiction having occasioned some remonstrance from Rome, the council retained only the right of rejecting the petition of the married persons, and consented to refer such causes to the holy office, as it should not previously have rejected.‡

"There was a moment in which, doubtless, the destruction of private fortunes, the ruin of youth, the domestic discord occasioned by these abuses, determined the government to depart from its established maxims concerning the freedom of manners allowed the subject. All the courtesans were banished from Venice; but their absence was not enough to reclaim and bring back good morals to a whole people brought up in the most scandalous licentiousness. Depravity reached the very bosom of private families, and even into the cloister: and they found themselves obliged to recall, and even to indemnify,§ women who sometimes gained possession of important secrets, and who might be usefully employed in the ruin of men whose fortunes might have rendered them dangerous. Since that time licentiousness has gone on increasing: and we have seen mothers not only selling the innocence of their daughters, but selling it by a contract, authenticated by the signature of a public officer, and the performance of which was secured by the protection of the laws.‖

"The parlors of the convents of noble ladies and the houses of the courtesans, though the police carefully kept up a number of spies about them, were the only assemblies for society in Venice; and in these two places, so different from each other, there was equal freedom. Music, collations, gallantry, were not more forbidden in the pariors than at the casinos. There were a number of casinos for the purpose of public assemblies, where gaming was the principal pursuit of the company. It was a strange sight to see persons of either sex masked, or grave in their magisterial robes, round a table, invoking chance, and giving way at one instant to the agonies of despair, at the next to the illusions of hope, and that without uttering a single word.

"The rich had private casinos, but they lived incognito in them; and the wives whom they abandoned found compensation in the liberty they enjoyed. The corruption of morals had deprived them of their empire. We have just reviewed the whole history of Venice, and we have not once seen them exercise the slightest influence."—DARU: "Hist. de la Repub. de Venice," vol. v., p. 95.

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* Correspondence of M. Schlick, French charge d'affaires. Despatch of 24th August, 1782. † Ibid. Despatch 31st August. ‡ Ibid. Despatch of 3d September, 1785.

§ The decree for their recall designates them as "nostre benomerite meretrici": a fund and some houses called Case rampano, were assigned to them; hence the opprobrious appellation of Carampane.

‖ Mayer, "Description of Venice," vol. ii.; and M. Archenholz, Picture of Italy, vol. i., ch. 2.

DON JUAN.

CANTO V., STANZA CXLVII., p. 590.

BACON'S APOPHTHEGMS.	OBSERVATIONS.
91.—Michael Angelo, the famous painter, painting in the Pope's chapel the portraiture of hell and damned souls, made one of the damned souls so like a cardinal that was his enemy, as everybody at first sight knew it: whereupon the cardinal complained to Pope Clement humbly praying it might be defaced. The Pope said to him, Why, you know very well I have power to deliver a soul out of purgatory, but not out of hell.	This was not the portrait of a cardinal, but of the Pope's master of the ceremonies.
155.—Alexander, after the battle of Granicum, had very great offers made him by Darius, in consulting with his captains concerning them, Parmenio said, Sure, I would accept of these offers, if I were as Alexander. Alexander answered, So would I, if I were as Parmenio.	It was after the battle of Issus and during the siege of Tyre, and not immediately after the passage of the Granicus, that this is said to have occurred.
158.—Antigonus, when it was told him that the enemy had such volleys of arrows, that they did hide the sun, said, That falls out well, for it is hot weather, and so we shall fight in the shade.	This was not said by Antigonus, but by a Spartan, previously to the battle of Thermopylæ.
162.—There was a philosopher that disputed with Adrian the Emperor, and did it but weakly. One of his friends that stood by afterwards said unto him, Methinks you were not like yourself last day, in argument with the Emperor: I could have answered better myself. Why, said the philosopher, would you have me contend with him that commands thirty legions?	This happened under Augustus Cæsar, and not during the reign of Adrian.
164.—There was one that found a great mass of money, digging underground in his grandfather's house, and being somewhat doubtful of the case, signified it to the emperor that he had found such treasure. The emperor made a rescript thus: Use it. He writ back again, that the sum was greater than his state or condition could use. The emperor writ a new rescript thus. Abuse it.	This happened to the father of Herodes Atticus, and the answer was made by the Emperor Nerva, who deserved that his name should have been stated by the "greatest–wisest–meanest of mankind."
178. One of the seven was wont to say, that laws were like cobwebs: where the small flies were caught, and the great break through.	This was said by Anarcharsis the Scythian, and not by a Greek.
209.—An orator of Athens said to Demosthenes, The Athenians will kill you if they wax mad. Demosthenes replied, And they will kill you if they be in good sense.	This was not said by Demosthenes, but to Demosthenes by Phocion.
221.—There was a philosopher about Tiberius that, looking into the nature of Caius, said of him, That he was mire mingled with blood.	This was not said of Caius (Caligula, I presume, is intended by Caius), but of Tiberius himself.
97.—There was a king of Hungary took a bishop in battle, and kept him prisoner: whereupon the Pope writ a monitory to him, for that he had broken the privilege of holy church, and taken his son: the king sent an embassage to him, and sent withal the armor wherein the bishop was taken, and this only in writing—Vide num hæc sit vestis filii tui? Know now whether this be thy son's coat?	This reply was not made by a king of Hungary, but sent by Richard the First, Cœur de Lion, of England, to the Pope, with the breast-plate of the bishop of Beauvais.
267.—Demetrius, King of Macedon, had a petition offered him divers times by an old woman, and answered he had no leisure; whereupon the woman said aloud, Why then give over to be king?	This did not happen to Demetrius, but to Philip, king of Macedon.

VOLTAIRE.—Having stated that Bacon was frequently incorrect in his citations from history, I have thought it necessary in what regards so great a name (however trifling), to support the assertion by such cases as more immediately occur to me. They are but trifles, and yet for such trifles a schoolboy would be whipped (if still in the fourth form); and Voltaire for half-a-dozen similar errors has been treated as a superficial writer, notwithstanding the testimony of the learned Warton:—"Voltaire, a writer of much deeper research than is imagined, and the first who has displayed the literature and customs of the dark ages with any degree of penetration and comprehension."* For another distinguished testimony to Voltaire's merits in literary research, see also Lord Holland's excellent Account of the Life and Writings of Lope de Vega, vol. i., p. 215, edition of 1817.

Voltaire has even been termed a "shallow fellow," by some of the same school who called Dryden's Ode "a drunken song;"—a school (as it is called, I presume, from their education being still incomplete), the whole of whose filthy trash of Epics, Excursions, etc., etc., etc., is not worth the two words in Zaire, "Vous Pleurez,"† or a single speech of Tancred: a school, the apostate lives of whose renegadoes, with their tea-drinking neutrality of morals, and their convenient treachery in politics in the record of their accumulated pretences to virtue can produce no actions (were all their good deeds drawn up in array) to equal or approach the sole defence of the family of Calas, by that great and unequalled genius—the universal Voltaire.

I have ventured to remark on these little inaccuracies of "the greatest genius that England, or perhaps any other country, ever produced,"‡ merley to show our national injustice in condemning generally the greatest genius of France for such inadvertencies as these, of which the highest of England has been no less guilty. Query, was Bacon a greater intellect than Newton?

CAMPBELL.—Being in the humor of criticism, I shall proceed, after having ventured upon the slips of Bacon, to touch upon one or two as trifling in the edition of the British Poets, by the justly celebrated Campbell. But I do this in good will, and trust it will be so taken. If anything could add to my opinion of the talents and true feeling of that gentleman it would be his classical, honest and triumphant defence of Pope, against the vulgar cant of the day, and its existing Grub Street.

The inadvertencies to which I allude are—

Firstly, in speaking of Anstey, whom he accuses of having taken "his leading characters from Smollett." Anstey's Bath Guide was published in 1766. Smollett's Humphrey Clinker, (the only work of Smollett's from which Tabitha, etc., etc., could have been taken) was written during Smollett's last residence at Leghorn in 1770. "Again," if there has been any borrowing, Anstey must be the creditor, and not the debtor. I refer Mr. Campbell to his own data in his Lives of Smollett and Anstey.

Secondly, Mr. Campbell says in the Life of Cowper (note to page 358, vol. vii.) that he knows not to whom Cowper alludes in these lines,—

"Nor he who, for the bane of thousands born,
Built God a church, and laugh'd his word to scorn."

The Calvinist meant Voltaire, and the church of Ferney, with its inscription, "Deo erexit Voltaire."

Thirdly, in the Life of Burns, Mr. Campbell quotes Shakespeare thus,

"To gild refined gold, to paint the rose,
Or add fresh perfume to the violet."

This version by no means improves the original, which is as follows,—

"To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,
To throw a perfume on the violet," etc.—KING JOHN.

A great poet quoting another should be correct; he should also be accurate, when he accuses a Parnassian brother of that dangerous charge "borrowing"; a poet had better borrow anything (excepting money) than the thoughts of another—they are always sure to be reclaimed; but it is very hard, having been the lender, to be denounced as the debtor, as is the case of Anstey versus Smollett.

As there is "honor amongst thieves," let there be some amongst poets, and give each his due,—none can afford to give it more than Mr. Campbell himself, who, with a high reputation for originality, and a fame which cannot be shaken, is the only poet of the times (except Rogers) who can be reproached (and in him it is indeed a reproach) with having written too little.

Ravenna, Jan. 5, 1821.

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* Dissertation I.

† ——"Il est trop vrai que l'honneur me l'ordonne,
Que je vous adorai, que je vous abandonne,
Que je renonce a vous, que vous le desirez,
Que sous une autre loi . . . Zaire, VOUS PLEUREZ?"—
Zaire, acte iv., sc. ii.

‡ Pope, in Spence's Anecdotes, p. 158, Malone's edition.